

## Cassia leptophylla - Gold Medallion Tree



Photo 1

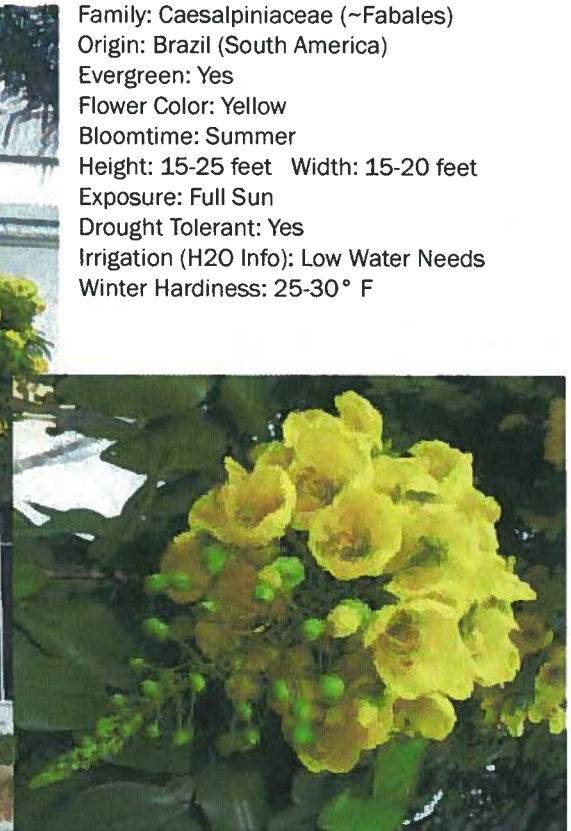


Photo 2

Family: Caesalpiniaceae (~Fabales)  
Origin: Brazil (South America)  
Evergreen: Yes  
Flower Color: Yellow  
Bloomtime: Summer  
Height: 15-25 feet Width: 15-20 feet  
Exposure: Full Sun  
Drought Tolerant: Yes  
Irrigation (H2O Info): Low Water Needs  
Winter Hardiness: 25-30° F

*Cassia leptophylla* (Gold Medallion Tree) - A broad semi-evergreen tree 20 to 25 feet tall that has reddish-brown bark with low branches that are somewhat pendulous towards the tips with 1 foot long compound leaves of 9 to 20 pairs of opposite 1-2 inch long linear leaflets that are deep glossy green on their upper surface and dull green below. In early to mid-summer terminal clusters of 2 to 3 inch wide deep yellow flowers appear, with scattered blooming later. The flowers are followed by 1 to 2 foot long bean-like pods that are square in cross section. Plant in full sun in a fairly well-drained soil and give occasional to little irrigation. Hardy to about 25 degrees F and tolerant to short duration freezes a bit lower. This is the most common and reliable of the Cassias in southern California – it was first planted in the Los Angeles County Arboretum in 1958 and has become increasingly popular over time. It can be a little fussy in heavy soils that are over irrigated but in general it has been a very reliable tree in Southern California landscapes. Though many of the plants previously known as Cassia are now in the genus *Senna*, this species from southeastern Brazil is still in the genus *Cassia*. The name *Cassia* is from the ancient Greek ‘Kassia’, a name for the biblical kassian plants that provided senna leaves and pods for medicinal use. The specific epithet is from the Greek words ‘leptos’ meaning “thin”, “slender”, “delicate” or “narrow”, and ‘phyllon’ meaning “leaf” in reference to the narrow leaflets of this species.

Write-up from San Marcos Growers found at [http://www.smgrowers.com/products/plants/plantdisplay.asp?plant\\_id=359](http://www.smgrowers.com/products/plants/plantdisplay.asp?plant_id=359)

Photo 1 - Photo found at [http://selectree.calpoly.edu/Photos/Cassia\\_leptophylla/images/tree\(flowering\).jpg](http://selectree.calpoly.edu/Photos/Cassia_leptophylla/images/tree(flowering).jpg)

Photo 2 - Photo found at [http://farm1.staticflickr.com/106/303822583\\_fa0d4c31cb\\_z.jpg?zz=1](http://farm1.staticflickr.com/106/303822583_fa0d4c31cb_z.jpg?zz=1)