



ARIZONA-SONORA  
DESERT  
MUSEUM

## ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

### Yellow Morning Glory Vine or Yuca

*Merremia aurea*

**DESCRIPTION:** This Baja California endemic woody vine grows rapidly to 20 feet or more each year. All summer, and into the fall, it bears two-inch, brilliant yellow flowers. These attract Sulphur butterflies to their nectar. In fall large, fuzzy, black seeds are released. Merremia can be sown directly into the ground so that the large tuberous roots can grow deep into the soil. Hold the seed firmly and file into the hard seed coat until a lighter color shows. Soak in water overnight and sow 1" deep in hot weather. Germination takes less than a week with this treatment. They will flower in the second year, occasionally in the first. In our region it usually freezes to the ground in winter, but this scarcely sets it back, as it resprouts readily in the spring. For a dazzling color combination, plant with 'Baja Red' queen's wreath. They have similar requirements.

**RECOMMENDED USE:** Excellent for a summer screen on a fence or trellis; will also climb over shrubs and into trees.

#### CULTURE:



**Hardiness:** Freezes but regrows vigorously. Tuber hardy into the lower 20's.



**Sun tolerance:** Full sun is needed to flower, though the roots may be planted in shade if the top can grow into sun.



**Watering and feeding:** Very drought tolerant and can survive on 6" rainfall. The more water given, the faster and bigger it grows.



**Soil requirements:** Grows largest in deep soils but is tolerant of all but very heavy clay.



**Pruning:** Can be pruned back to near soil level in March, before new growth starts.