

Senna surattensis

Golden Senna, Bush Senna, Glaucous Cassia,
Scrambled Egg Tree

Fabaceae

Flower Display: A+



S.H. Brown

North Fort Myers, Florida

Late November

Under most circumstances *Senna surattensis* is a dependable and impressive small flowering tree. It is commonly planted as a street and landscape tree in south Florida and the Bahamas. The flowering days of *S. surattensis* are prolonged and beautiful. As a species, it is capable of flowering from January through December. Many trees have their best show in the spring and summer while others are at their showiest from fall into spring. Late summer and mid winter are usually the two periods of minimum or no flower displays, and mid winter is when many trees can become quite unkempt. What's quite noticeable is that most trees, growing in close proximity to each other, either put on an exceptional show or nary a flower. This suggests that flowering is stimulated by local maintenance regimes more so than by changing weather. Newly planted trees must be kept well watered to become established and apparently to flower adequately. After establishment reduce irrigation. In alternate years, prune once after a major flowering episode to keep a tight attractive canopy. You may want to prune more often since heavy flowering can leave some trees disheveled, with scant leaves and dry, hanging, blackened pods. The trunk and branches are a silver-gray color. The crown is naturally rounded and airy, but pruning and wind damage will thicken and shorten the canopy of many

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S.H. Brown

Fort Myers, Florida

Mid March



S.H. Brown

Fort Myers, Florida

Mid November

Caterpillar soon to become a Cloudless Sulphur butterfly



Fort Myers, Florida

Late November



Naples, Florida

Early October



Fort Myers, Florida

Late November

Leaves: Even-pinnate, alternate, dark green, to about 7 inches long usually having 6-9 opposite pairs of obovate to oblong leaflets

Flowers: Yellow with 10 stamens to 1-1 1/2 inches wide in semi-erect panicles

Fruits: Pods, flat, papery to about 7 inches long

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trees. Easily toppled by wind, *S. surrattensis* should probably be staked for up to three years after planting or until it becomes properly established. It is generally not a long-lived tree, and will usually not survive for more than 6 years under normal street-scape conditions. However, properly tended, it can live for more than 10 years. This means keeping it properly standing and maintaining it free of scales and the pink hibiscus mealybug. Typical of this genus, *S. surrattensis* attracts egg-laying cloudless sulfur butterflies. The caterpillars feed on the leaves and flowers of the tree. However, caterpillar feeding does little to detract from the beauty of its magnificent displays. Maintain a fertilizer schedule for best appearance.



S.H. Brown

North Fort Myers, Florida
Hurricane toppled *Senna Surattensis*

Mid August



S.H. Brown

Fort Myers, Florida Mid December
Scale insects can cause stem die-back

Tropical Flowering Trees List
Questions/Comments:
Email: brownsh@leegov.com

Golden Senna

Syn: *Cassia glauca*, *Cassia surattensis*

Origin: India, Southeast Asia, Tropical Australia

Zone: 9b-12b, 20°F

Growth Rate: Fast

Flowering Months: January through December

Flowering Days:

Leaf Persistence: Evergreen to Semi-Deciduous

Messiness: Moderate

Salt Tolerance: Low

Drought Tolerance: Medium

Nutritional Requirements: Medium

Potential Pests: Caterpillars, Hibiscus Mealybugs, Scales

Typical Dimensions: 14'x11'

Uses: Butterfly Garden, Container, Garden, Park, Parking Lot, Poolside, Streetscape