

WHAT'S THAT BLOOMIN THING ?



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Master Gardener Trainee 2018

Cassia & Senna

Golden Medallion Tree, Crown of Gold Tree

- *Cassia leptophylla* 'pronounced "KASS-ee-uh lep-toe-FILL-uh (Gold Medallion Tree). Though many of the plants previously known as Cassia are now in the genus Senna-a move not accepted by all botanists, this species from southeastern Brazil is still in the genus Cassia. There are close to 700 hundred Cassia species.
- Cassia is a genus of flowering plants in the legume family, Fabaceae, also known as the pea family. Features about 700 genera and nearly 20,000 species of trees, shrubs, vines and herbs.
- In San Diego it can be found in Balboa Park and at San Diego City College.



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.



Gold Medallion Tree (*Cassia leptophylla*)

Recommended for planting by the California Invasive Plant Council, the gold medallion tree grows quickly to its mature height of 20 to 25 feet, spreading or weeping with a low 20 to 30 foot wide canopy, rounded or umbrella shaped.

Perennial-Dicot

Growth rate is Fast, at 36 Inches per Year.

Longevity less than 50 years.

Evergreen to Partly Deciduous Foliage.



Delicate Leaves, Pinnately Compound Even, Medium Green on Upper Surface and Dull Green Below.

Flowers are Showy. Deep Yellow with 5 Petals, 2 to 3 Inches Wide. Blooms in Summer attracting butterflies.

Brown, Foot-Long Seed Pod Fall from Tree. Seeds are Considered Poisonous, thus Should be Collected & Removed.

Growing Conditions for *Cassia leptophylla*

Thrives when Planted in Full Sun.

Moist to Dry Soil, Should Be Well Drained.

Little to Moderate Water Once Established , Drought Tolerant.

Soil That is Clay, Sand or Loam.

Soil pH Preferably Neutral to Slightly Alkaline.

Seaside Tolerance is Good in South Coast.

Sunset Zones 15, 16 and 20 – 24.

USDA Hardiness Zones 10 – 12. Cold Tolerant to 25 Degrees or Lower.

Propagation is Fast and Easy from Seed.



Pruning, Pests and Safety

Prune when Young. Trees Grow Asymmetrically: Therefore, Stake and Prune to Control Shape.

Tendency to Weep, Prune to a Single Trunk; Also After Flowering.

Branch Strength Rated as Medium Weak.

Root Damage Potential Rated as Low.

Pest: Thrips.

Deer Resistant.



If only it was Gopher Resistant.

THE END

