

Botanical Name: Cleome isomeris

Common Name: Bladderpod

Type of Plant: Dicot: shrub Family Capparaceae

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape a loosely constructed evergreen shrub with an open rounded canopy;  
forms an upright to somewhat mounded shape with age

Height 2 - 4ft (6ft) Spread equal or more Growth Rate slow to moderate

Environment:

Exposure full sun preferred; tolerates some shade at inland habitats

Soil is tolerant of most well-draining soil; thrives in sandy soils

Hardiness hardy (zones 11-13, 18-24): prefers warm - hot inland valley sites

Morphology:

Leaves trifoliate, alternate, pale green, with elliptic leaflets; 2 - 3"  
long; strongly aromatic when crushed

Flowers yellow, 1" across, in mostly terminal clusters: March - May and  
intermittent during the summer

Fruit a fleshy green pod, 2" long

Propagation: seed

Usage: makes an attractive low to medium filler in desert or Mediterranean  
theme gardens - useful for its loose open form and colorful yellow  
flowers; can mass together as an informal hedge or low screen

Landscape Care:

Watering very little is required after establishment; thrives on occasional  
deep soaking in summer; good for dry slopes

Fertilizing none required unless heavily watered

Pruning selectively head back after blooming for a fuller shape

Pests/Diseases relatively free - may get aphids on new flowers

Other \_\_\_\_\_

Origin: foothills and washes of both Mohave and Colorado deserts of Calif.