

Botanical Name: Fremontodendron 'San Gabriel'

Common Name: Flannel bush (NCN)

Type of Plant: dicot: shrub/small tree Family Sterculiaceae

Habit of Growth:

Overall Shape An upright, single or multi-trunked plant with stiff branches ascending and spreading in a distinctive angular pattern to form a pyramidal canopy in youth; older plants tend to become broadly rounded

Height 15' - 20' (25') Spread equal or more Growth Rate rapid

Environment:

Exposure full sun preferred; subject to root fungus diseases in shaded sites

Soil prefers dry, well-drained locations; tolerates clay if not over-watered

Hardiness hardy (zones 7-24): thrives in hot sunny locations

Morphology:

Leaves palmate, alternate, with 3-5 (7) lobes which are more conspicuous than the species; oval to nearly round, covered with tan fuzzy hairs

Flowers bright yellow on upper surface of petals, orange on lower surface 5-parted, solitary; 2-3" across; March - June

Fruit a capsule: 5-valved, densely hairy, 1"-2" long

Propagation: semi-hardwood cuttings

Usage: a highly prized large accent shrub/small tree for its heavy display of yellow flowers in spring (needs some pruning for best shape); if left alone, is a good screening or background mass; dry woodlands, Mediterranean or subtropical themes

Landscape Care:

Watering very little after established; avoid heavy watering during summer when the plant is in its dormant period

Fertilizing none required

Pruning little required, can be espaliered in youth; avoid strong heading-back

Pests/Diseases root fungus diseases a serious problem in clay soils

Other provide good drainage at the time of planting

Origin: hybrid cultivar between F. mexicanum and F. californica