Great Merrybells

Uvularia grandiflora



Great Merrybells flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Height: 24 inches

Spread: 24 inches

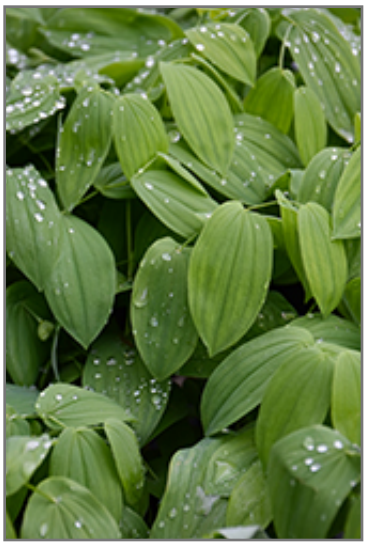
Sunlight: ◐ ●

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Bellwort

Description:

A clump-forming and spreading member of the lily family with odd nodding sulphur yellow flowers with pointy petals, curious but not showy; ideal for any woodland garden; prefers cooler environments and will often go dormant in the summer



Great Merrybells foliage
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Great Merrybells features unusual lemon yellow bell-shaped flowers dangling from the stems from early to late spring. Its pointy leaves remain grayish green in color throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Great Merrybells is an herbaceous perennial with a ground-hugging habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and should be cut back in late fall in preparation for winter. It has no significant negative characteristics.

Great Merrybells is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Rock/Alpine Gardens
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Container Planting

Planting & Growing

Great Merrybells will grow to be about 24 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 8 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen! As this plant tends to go dormant in summer, it is best interplanted with late-season bloomers to hide the dying foliage.

This plant does best in partial shade to full shade. Keep it well away from hot, dry locations that receive direct afternoon sun or which get reflected sunlight, such as against the south side of a white wall. It does best in average to evenly moist conditions, but will not tolerate standing water. It may require supplemental watering during periods of drought or extended heat. It is particular about its soil conditions, with a strong preference for rich, alkaline soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. Consider applying a thick mulch around the root zone over the growing season to conserve soil moisture. This species is native to parts of North America. It can be propagated by division.

Great Merrybells is a fine choice for the garden, but it is also a good selection for planting in outdoor pots and containers. Because of its spreading habit of growth, it is ideally suited for use as a 'spiller' in the 'spiller-thriller-filler' container combination; plant it near the edges where it can spill gracefully over the pot. It is even sizeable enough that it can be grown alone in a suitable container. Note that when growing plants in outdoor containers and baskets, they may require more frequent waterings than they would in the yard or garden.