February Hort Report

One of my favorite sites for looking up the botanical name of a plant, and finding out its culture, is The Missouri Botanical Garden site: Missouribotanicalgarden.org

A very useful feature I recently discovered on the site is a little microphone icon after the botanical name. Click on it, and the name will be pronounced.

Today’s subject is Jasminum nudifolium, the winter jasmine.

This is a vine-like shrub, which can grow up a trellis, or along the ground, rooting where it touches the soil. My specimen is from Sue Soraruf’s garden. It arches up before trailing, and is particularly effective at the top of a slope or wall. It blooms in winter, usually February to March, but sometimes as early as January. It blooms along the branches, like a Redbud, before the leaves come out. The blossoms are small, scentless yellow flowers, and although it will tolerate full shade, it blooms better with more sun. The new branches are green, turning brown as they age. The small, delicate leaves grow out of green side-shoots.

This plant can grow 15 feet tall, with a spread of 3-6 feet. It is very low maintenance, and can tolerate poor soil. Mine is growing beneath a Maple tree, where many plants won’t thrive. Although the blooms are small, they’re a real treat in the winter!