

BRANCHING OUT

A California Native Plant Introduction Program



Fremontodendron californicum ssp.
decumbens x *F. mexicanum* 'Dara's Gold'
Dara's Gold Flannel bush



The Santa Barbara Botanic Garden's Plant Introduction Program "Branching Out" is dedicated to increasing awareness, appreciation, and availability of outstanding California native plants for landscapes and gardens.

BOTANICAL NAME _____ *Fremontodendron californicum* ssp. *decumbens* x *F. mexicanum*

CULTIVAR NAME _____ 'Dara's Gold'

COMMON NAME _____ Dara's Gold Flannel bush

FAMILY NAME _____ Sterculiaceae

ORIGIN _____ A *Fremontodendron californicum* ssp. *decumbens* x *F. mexicanum* hybrid developed by Horticulturist Dara Emery.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION _____ A low, mounding form to 3 ft tall and 6 or more feet wide. The shiny green foliage and bright yellow, 1.5-2.5 inch wide flowers distinguish 'Dara's Gold' from the other named cultivars of decumbent flannel bush.

WATER REQUIREMENTS _____ Tolerant of drought conditions in southern California, but also accepts occasional summer water when planted in well-drained soils.

SOIL REQUIREMENTS _____ Well-drained soils.

EXPOSURE REQUIREMENTS _____ Full sun best, but accepts light shade.

PESTS AND DISEASES _____ *Fremontodendron* are susceptible to root rotting pathogens which are favored by warm temperatures and moisture. Therefore, avoid summer water on established plants unless drainage is excellent.

HARDINESS _____ Zones 4–24

LANDSCAPE VALUE _____ 'Dara's Gold' is a beautiful, low-mounding shrub of modest proportions with bright yellow flowers that combine well with the rich blues of ceanothus and sages. It is particularly effective when planted on slopes.

PROPAGATION _____ Somewhat unpredictable from cuttings, varying from easy to difficult.
 _____ To commercially propagate this introduction, interested nurseries need to sign a licensing agreement with the Santa Barbara Botanic Garden.

SALES POTENTIAL _____ The vibrant green foliage, sun-yellow flowers, and long blooming season, combined with its attractive appearance in containers, make this selection particularly desirable.

NURSERY AVAILABILITY _____ Native Sons Nursery (<http://www.nativeson.com/home2.html>)
 San Marcos Growers (<http://www.smgrowers.com/>)
 Suncrest Nurseries (<http://www.suncrestnurseries.com/>)

For more information about this program, contact the Garden at 805-682-4726, ext. 114.
 Or, write to the Plant Introduction Program at 1212 Mission Canyon Road, Santa Barbara, California 93105.



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