

***Hypericum prolificum* – St. John’s Wort, shrubby**

COMMON NAME: Shrubby St. John’s Wort

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Hypericum prolificum* – Comes from Greek *hyper* meaning “above” and *eikon* meaning “picture”. In the middle ages flowers were put above a picture to ward off evil spirits at the midsummer festival of Walpurgisnacht which became known as the Feast of St. John. *Prolificum* comes from *paroles* for “offspring, descendants” and *fer* to “bear, carry, bring” referring to the bushy stamens.

FLOWER: Showy 5-petaled bright yellow flowers in small clusters

BLOOMING PERIOD: July to September

SIZE: Small shrub growing to 4 feet tall

BEHAVIOR: Develops many stems and makes a great shrub to put in front of taller shrubs or trees.

SITE REQUIREMENTS: Suited to rocky slopes in average, well-drained soils with full sun to part shade.

NATURAL RANGE: Found in much of the eastern part of the U.S. extending west to Missouri and Iowa, but mostly concentrated in the Ohio River basin. It is not common in Wisconsin and is listed under “Special Concern” which means it is not abundant and local attention should be focused on the species before it becomes threatened or endangered. There are a few pockets in Marinette County and some in Richland, Vernon, Grant and Crawford Counties.

SPECIAL FEATURES: Stems have two sharp edges. The bark of older stems peels to reveal the attractive, pale orange, inner bark.

SUGGESTED CARE: Blooms on new growth so prune in the early spring.

COMPANION PLANTS: Sugar maple, basswood, oaks, black cherry and for understory wild strawberry, prairie dock, compass plant, and cupplant.