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*Abutilon megapotamicum*

[Synonyms : *Abutilon vexillarium*, *Sida megapotamica*]

**TRAILING ABUTILON**.is an evergreen or semi-evergreen shrub. Native to tropical southern Brazil it has nodding, red and yellow flowers with a purplish column of stamens.

It is also known as *Abutilo* (Italian), *Farolillo jopanes* (Spanish), Flowering maple, *Klockmalva* (Swedish), *Kuipplant* (Dutch), *Lanterna japonesa* (Brazilian, Spanish), *Lyhtyaulio* (Finnish), *Lyktmalva* (Swedish), Mallow, *Samtpappel* (German), and *Zimmerahorn* (German).

The plant has a similar ‘new mown hay-like’ smell to that of woodruff (*Galium odoratum*).

*Megapotamicum* is made up of Greek *mega-* (great) and *potamo-* (river) components meaning ‘of or near the large river’ in this case the Rio Grande.

The fuchsia-like flowers have been eaten as a cooked vegetable.

In Europe this plant, which can trail over walls for a length of anything from two to ten feet, is cultivated as an ornamental.