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Forsythia suspensa

[Synonyms : *Forsythia fortunei*, *Forsythia suspensa* subsp. *fortunei*, *Forsythia suspensa* subsp. *latifolia*, *Forsythia suspensa* subsp. *sieboldii*, *Ligustrum suspensum*, *Rangium suspensum*, *Syringa suspensa*]

GOLDEN BELL is a deciduous shrub. Native to eastern Asia (especially China) it has small golden yellow flowers.

It is also known as *Bågforsythia* (Swedish), *Forsythia*, *Forsytie převislá* (Czech), *Forzítia previsnutá* (Slovak), *Lien chiao* (Chinese), Weeping forsythia, Weeping golden bell, *Zlatice převislá* (Czech), and *Zlatice previsnutá* (Czech).

Suspensa is derived from Latin *suspendo* (to hang up) meaning ‘hanging’ with reference to the flowers.

When the Swedish botanist, Carl Per Thunberg (1743-1828) discovered golden bell in Japan he mistook it initially for a lilac (*Syringa*). It was introduced to Holland in 1833 by a Dutchman, Verkerk Pistorius, and arrived in England in about 1850.

Medicinally, the ‘fruit’ wall, and the leaves and twigs have long been used in local Chinese remedies. The former in decoction has been used in treatments for boils, skin ailments in general, intestinal worms, period disorders and fluid retention. A decoction of the latter (the twigs and leaves) has been used for treating breast cancer.