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Rhododendron chrysanthum

[Synonyms : *Rhododendron aureum*, *Rhododendron baeticum*]

YELLOW RHODODENDRON is an evergreen shrub. Found in central Asia it has pale yellow flowers.

It is also known as Rosage alpenrose, Rosebay, Snow rose, and Yellow-flowered rhododendron; and in flower language is said to be a symbol of beware, and danger.

Warning – the leaves are poisonous in large doses.

Chrysanthum is derived from Greek *chryso-* (gold) and *antho-* (flower) components meaning ‘with golden flowers’.

In central Asia despite its poisonous properties the leaves have been used to make Tartarian Tea which was said to alleviate painful rheumatism. While in India a decoction of the leaves has been used to treat rheumatism and gout. Yellow rhododendron was introduced to Europe from Siberia and by the end of the 18th Century was being taken for rheumatism and gout in some parts of Europe too.