



The Herb Society of America Promising Plants Profiles

Gentiana lutea

Genus: *Gentiana*

Specific Epithet: *lutea*

Common Name: yellow gentian

Family: Gentianaceae

Flower Color: yellow

Form: herbaceous perennial

Hardiness Zone: 5-9

Height: 3-6'

Width: 2'

Soil: moist but well-drained, rich, alkaline soil

Sun: full sun or partial shade

Uses: economic, medicinal, culinary (root);
ornamental



This is another magnificent medicinal plant worth growing acres of but which can be very difficult to grow. In the wild it grows in the Alps, preferring well-drained but moist, alkaline soil and a cool climate. It is an intensely bitter tonic herb that stimulates the digestive system and is used in gentian brandy, angostura bitters etc. This was also used to flavor the bitter soft drink *Moxie*, and it inspired a new word in the American vocabulary, i.e., someone was said to have moxie.

– Deni Bown, Promising Plants Presentation, 2003

Photo by Deni Bown

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