

Discover the Flora of Our Campus


Yellow climbing rose (Rosa foetida)

The yellow creeping rose (*Rosa foetida*) is an ornamental shrub belonging to the Rosaceae family. This plant is particularly distinguished by its bright yellow flowers and is one of the most striking species in nature and gardening. Its height usually varies between 1–3 meters and it grows in the form of a bush with dense, thorny branches. Its leaves are complexly structured, green in color and have toothed edges. Its flowers bloom singly or in small clusters and have an intense yellow color. The plant has a unique pungent odor, which has led to its name "foetida" (fragrant).



Rosa foetida is considered to be native to Western and Central Asia, especially Iran, the Caucasus and the surrounding mountainous regions. Historically, it was brought to Europe via the Silk Road and was widely distributed there for decorative purposes. In Europe, it played an important role, especially in horticultural selection, and provided the genetic basis for the creation of many modern rose varieties with yellow and orange colors. Currently, it is grown as an ornamental plant in parks and gardens in most temperate regions. It is also found in some regions of Azerbaijan in wild or cultivated form.

The yellow creeping rose is a plant that loves sunny areas and has a high demand for light. It grows well in temperate climates and is relatively cold-resistant. It is not very picky in terms of soil, but grows better in well-drained, sandy or clayey, medium-fertile soils. It is moderately drought-resistant and can survive even in harsh conditions. Thanks to its strong root system, it can develop in both



mountainous and steppe areas. It blooms in spring and blooms more abundantly in sunny periods.

Rosa foetida is an important nectar source for pollinating insects in ecosystems. Its bright yellow flowers attract bees and other insects, which enhances the pollination process. The plant also has aesthetic value in ornamental gardening and is used to create color contrast in landscape design.

Its main importance to humans is its decorative and genetic selection value. Genetic material from this species has been used in the creation of many modern hybrid rose varieties. From an ecological point of view, it contributes to biodiversity in its natural habitats, but is not invasive.

The yellow creeping rose is mainly used for decorative purposes. It is planted in parks, gardens and landscape design to create a colorful visual effect. It creates aesthetic contrast when planted with other rose species, especially due to its yellow flowers.

In some cases, research has been conducted on its petals for use in the perfume and cosmetics industry, as with other rose species, but *Rosa foetida* is more valuable for decorative purposes. It also plays an important role as a genetic resource in breeding work.

The most interesting feature of *Rosa foetida* is its strong and slightly pungent scent, which distinguishes it from many other rose species. This scent is also considered a natural defense mechanism.

Another interesting fact is that this plant is considered the "ancestor" of many popular yellow and orange rose varieties in Europe. That is, its genetic role in the color diversity of modern decorative roses is great.

In general, *Rosa foetida* is one of the rose species that has played a special role in horticulture, both for its decorative beauty and selection importance, and has played a historically important role.

