

***Senna marilandica* (Cassia m.) - Maryland Senna**



Native to open woods, wet meadows and disturbed areas of the eastern United States, Maryland senna is an erect, shrubby perennial that grows 4-6 feet tall and 2-3 feet wide. Brownish-yellow clusters of flowers bloom in July and August, followed by black seeds that remain on the plant even after it has died to the ground in late autumn. Wild turkeys feed on these seedpods in late autumn/winter. The foliage of this plant, when crushed, has an unpleasant scent. Maryland senna is a member of the legume family (*Fabaceae*) but, unlike other plants of this family, does not pull nitrogen from the atmosphere.

Hardy to USDA zone 4 (-30 degrees F), Maryland senna grows best in moist, well-drained, sandy soil in full sun. Plants will tolerate heat, humidity and clay soil.

Hummingbirds, bumblebees, ants and, occasionally, flies are attracted to the flowers of Maryland senna. Plants are the larval host for some species of butterflies and moths. Plants are considered deer resistant because of their toxic foliage.