BURNCOOSE NURSERIES PART OF THE CAERHAYS ESTATE

Calceolaria - Care Guide

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Pouch flower, Slipper flower, Slipperwort

From childhood one of the most treasured plants in my first greenhouse was Calceolaria integrifolia. It grew as a smallish shrub outside the dining room at Caerhays in a border and was easy (even for a youngster) to grow from softwood cuttings. The plant eventually succumbed to a cold winter and my later attempts to establish it outside at Burncoose did not succeed for long although it did well in the conservatory and remains today as a small woody shrub. C. integrifolia originates from Mexico which explains why it is difficult outside; but you do see it from time to time in coastal gardens in Cornwall.

C. integrifolia is an evergreen shrub with grey-green leaves. If grown in a greenhouse and, perhaps, over summered outside in a large pot, it can grow to 3-4ft. The flowers appear in cymes or clusters of 20 to 30 individual flowers and with every bit of extra feeding, loads of water, and consequent growth, new sets of flowers will appear right through the summer. Each individual flower resembles an ovoid bright yellow ‘slipper’ and the effect is stunning.

Calceolaria integrifolia

Calceolaria integrifolia

C. integrifolia & Salvia x jamensis 'Nachtvlinder'

Calceolaria 'Camden Hero'

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Calceolaria 'Camden Hero'

Calceolaria 'Lemon Drops'

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