golden tiara clematis

Clematis tangutica (Maxim.) Korsh.

Synonyms: None
Other common names: golden virginsbower, golden clematis, yellow clematis
Family: Ranunculaceae

Invasiveness Rank: **Not Ranked** - The invasiveness rank is calculated based on a species' ecological impacts, biological attributes, distribution, and response to control measures. The ranks are scaled from 0 to 100, with 0 representing a plant that poses no threat to native ecosystems and 100 representing a plant that poses a major threat to native ecosystems.

Description

Golden tiara clematis is a perennial vine that grows from 2 to 4 m long with climbing woody stems. Leaves of golden tiara clematis are opposite and compound with five to seven leaflets. The leaflets are 1-6 cm in length, oval to diamond-shaped with toothed margins, and often three-lobed at the base. The inflorescence is a one to three flowered cyme with flowers measuring 2-6 cm across. Flowers are bisexual and attached to pedicels 0.6 to 3 cm in length. Petals absent. Sepals are bright yellow, ascending, spreading near the tip, lanceolate to elliptic in shape, 1.8 to 3.4 cm long or 2.5 times the width, margins silky-hairy, upper surface silky-hairy, lower surface hairless. Stamens are 20 to 50 in quantity, and the filaments are pilose proximally. Pistils are 80 to 150 in quantity. Achenes are turgid with a pilose beak. (Pringle 2020, FOC 2017, Kershaw and Allen 2017, Dickinson and Royer 2014).

Figure 1 Golden tiara clematis (Clematis tangutica) Photo by the Alaska Center for Conservation Science.

Similar Species: Golden tiara clematis is present in Canada and Alaska as the variety *Clematis tangutica var. tangutica* and can be distinguished from other species within the buttercup family (Ranunculaceae) present in Alaska by the following characters: radially symmetric flowers, small one-seeded fruits (achenes), showy sepals without nectar spurs, leaves arranged oppositely on the stem, flowers without staminodes (sterile stamen that produce no pollen), sepals bright yellow and ascending, serrate leaflet margins, and hairless lower surfaces on petals. Closely related to golden tiara clematis is another horticultural escapee: oriental clematis (*Clematis orientalis*). Golden tiara clematis is

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sometimes treated as a variety of oriental clematis. Golden tiara clematis can be distinguished by its bright yellow sepals, and consistently serrate leaves rather than greenish-yellow sepals with coarsely few-toothed to entire leaf margins (Pringle 2020, Kershaw and Allen 2017, FOC 2017, Brouillet et al. 2010+., Winston and Schwarzländer 2010, Harris and Harris 2022).

Ecological Impact

Impact on community composition, structure, and interactions: This species is an aggressive vine that can climb over and prevent light from reaching competing vegetation (Alberta Invasive Species Council, 2014).

Impact on ecosystem processes: Golden tiara clematis may establish in disturbed habitats and disrupt natural succession by inhibiting light penetration and reducing nutrient availability (Alberta Invasive Species Council, 2014).

Figure 2 Golden tiara clematis (Clematis tangutica) growing over roadside vegetation. Photo by the Alaska Center for Conservation Science.

Biology and Invasive Potential

Reproductive potential: This species can spread by seed, rooting vines, and can regenerate from the crown of the rootstalk (Schumacher et al. 2022, Raček and Kertész 2009). Not currently widely spread in Alaska, but with Alaska's changing climate, non-native species could have greater opportunity for establishment within more favorable ecological niches such as warm areas near roadsides or along floodplains (Carlson et al 2016).

Role of disturbance in establishment: Golden tiara clematis most commonly establishes in disturbed habitats (Pringle 2020)

Potential for long-distance dispersal: No data to support long-distance dispersal.

Potential to be spread by human activity: Listed as a potential species for landscape plant material by UAF Extension in 2005. Golden tiara clematis has escaped the horticultural industry, and the invasiveness potential of this species is not well-known. The lack of knowledge could lead to future introductions in Alaska and increased opportunity for this species to escape a horticultural setting (Holloway and Wagoner 2005, Winston and Schwarzländer 2010).

Germination requirement: No authoritative data on germination requirements.

Growth requirements: Preference toward low humidity and low soil moisture. Adventitious stem rooting occurs optimally with temperatures no higher than 30° C (Raček and Kertész 2009, Cerny et al. 2003).

Legal Listings

- Listed noxious in Canada or other countries (AB)

Distribution and Abundance

Native and current distribution: Golden tiara clematis is native to temperate and tropical Asia (USDA, ARS 2017). In North America, it is known to grow on roadsides, thickets, and other disturbed, open habitats. Golden tiara clematis has not been reported in the lower 48 states, according to the USDA Plants Database

(USDA, NRCS 2017). It is present in Canada from the Yukon Territory south to BC, and from BC to Ontario (Brouillet et al. 2010+). It is currently known to occur in Southcentral Alaska and reported from Anchorage and Palmer in a floodplain of the Matanuska River (AKEPIC 2025). For the most up-to-date distribution information for Alaska, please visit the AKEPIC Database.

Management: Broadleaf herbicides such as Metasulfuron, Imazapic, 2,4-D Amine and Picloram are effective in managing infestations of C. orientalis, a closely related species. Small infestations can likely be hand-pulled. Infestations should always be revisited after initial treatment to determine if retreatment is necessary (CSU Extension 2013).

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