

Second, another trailing plant, commonly called million bells. Calibrachoa (group) is a prolific bloomer but I haven't always been a fan of this miniature petunia finding that earlier selections petered out if not watered and fertilized faithfully. However, this pretty yellow version may make me rethink the inclusion of this group of plants, members of the Solanaceae, or nightshade family, in my containers next year. I really like it next to the weird, alien green, almost a yellow-green of Ipomoea batatas 'Sweet Caroline' (sweet potato vine) that is also a very good trailing plant for containers.

The third of the 'just because it is' yellows in the garden required a very up-close-and personal view. The plant Eucomis 'Sparkling Burgandy' is a new hybrid pineapple lily. The common name refers to the flower spikes that resemble

a pineapple fruit. This summer-flowering bulb has such a subtle presence in the garden that I always go right up to the plant to have a look. And lo and behold, there was yellow! Tiny dots of yellow pollen doing the designer job of contrasting and complimenting the maroon and pink shades of the flower itself.

I can't leave my contemplation of yellow before describing to you the 'weed' at the end of the drive.

Roadside mulleins (Verbascum species) are stingy with their yellowness. Each plant will have hundreds of bright yellow florets over the season, judiciously opening here and there in order to have the pollination assured. The verbascum perhaps likes the Donovan song and knows that the bees, like the humans, can't resist the call of mellow yellow.



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Calibrachoa with Ipomoea batatas

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