

Cascabela thevetia

Kingdom: Plantae

Clade: Angiosperms

Order: Gentianales

Family: Apocynaceae

Subfamily: Rauvolfioideae

Genus: *Cascabela*

Species: *C. thevetia*



Cascabela thevetia commonly known as Yellow Oleander or Lucky Nut, is a tropical plant native to Central and South America, but it is widely cultivated in many parts of the world for its ornamental value.

Height:

Cascabela thevetia usually reaches a height of 3 to 7 meters.

Uses:

1. Ornamental Uses:

- **Aesthetic Value:** The plant is widely grown for its bright yellow (occasionally peach or orange) flowers and lush green leaves, making it a popular choice for gardens, parks, and roadside plantings due to its decorative appeal.

2. Toxicity:

- **Highly Poisonous:** All parts of the plant, particularly the seeds, are toxic. They contain cardiac glycosides, which can cause severe poisoning if ingested, posing a significant risk to both humans and animals.

3. Medicinal Uses (with caution):

- **In some traditional medicine practices,** *Cascabela thevetia* has been used, though with extreme caution, to treat certain conditions. The plant has been used in small doses to address heart issues or induce vomiting, but due to its high toxicity, such uses can be dangerous and should not be attempted without proper medical supervision.

Religious Importance:

- **Cultural Significance:** While *Cascabela thevetia* does not have major religious importance, its vibrant yellow flowers are sometimes included in floral decorations or used in offerings in certain traditions. In cultures where yellow is seen as a symbol of purity and divinity, the flowers are often appreciated for religious or ceremonial purposes.
- **Symbolism:** The plant's ability to grow in challenging environments has led to it being associated with endurance and prosperity in some cultures. Despite its toxicity, it is sometimes viewed as a symbol of good luck, giving rise to its nickname, Lucky Nut.