**Hibiscus hamabo** P.F. von Siebold & J.G. Zuccarini  
**Hardy Yellow Hibiscus**  
(*Hibiscus tiliaceus* var. *hamabo*, *Talipariti hamabo*)

- This 8′ to 10′ (15′) tall semi-evergreen to evergreen shrub or small tree is native to Korea and Japan and is a more cold hardy relative of *H. tiliaceus*; cold hardiness has not been fully defined but it appears to be useful in at least USDA zones 8 to 13; overall growth habits are upright irregularly ovals with coarse branching an moderately coarse foliage; the foliage is green to dusty green and 1½” to 3” long with broadly ovate to obovate blades with five to seven palmate veins, entire to rarely sparsely lobed margins, rounded to cordate bases, and broadly acute to mucronate tips; petioles are ½” to 1” long, stout, and grayish pubescent; the gray-brown bark is shallowly vertically fissured.
- Primarily this species is grown for the chartreuse to pale lemon yellow classic *Hibiscus* flowers on moderately cold tolerant stems; the 2” to 4” diameter flowers are solitary or less frequently in more or less pendant small axillary clusters or cymes; flowers are broadly trumpet to dish-shaped with overlapping recurving petals and a small red center; senescent blooms tend to flush orange; blooms can occur whenever temperatures permit, mostly from mid-spring to late fall in our region; the ½” diameter fruit are capsules or schizocarps and not ornamental.
- Culture appears to be easy as long as plants are grown in good garden conditions with well drained soils, good sun exposure and timely irrigation; plants are tolerant of salinity and moderate drought exposure once established; periodic pruning will be needed to maintain a dense uniform habit.
- Although the habit is probably too rough and flowering too sparse for this plant to become a landscape favorite, it does offer potential for a yellow flowering *Hibiscus* that is more hardy than *H. rosa-sinensis*; *Hibiscus hamabo* deserves wider testing in Texas and the southern USA to define its useful range.