



**Thompson & Morgan**  
Experts in the Garden Since 1855

# Press Release

## Rare Colour in Bird of Paradise Widely Available to Gardeners for the First Time

For gardeners wanting an exotic touch in their garden or conservatory, the traditional bird of paradise, *Strelitzia reginae*, has been a firm favourite for a number of years.

Thompson & Morgan is delighted, however, to now be able to offer gardeners a touch of gold for their exotic displays. They have secured stocks of an exciting colour breakthrough with the introduction of *Strelitzia reginae* 'Mandela's Gold'.

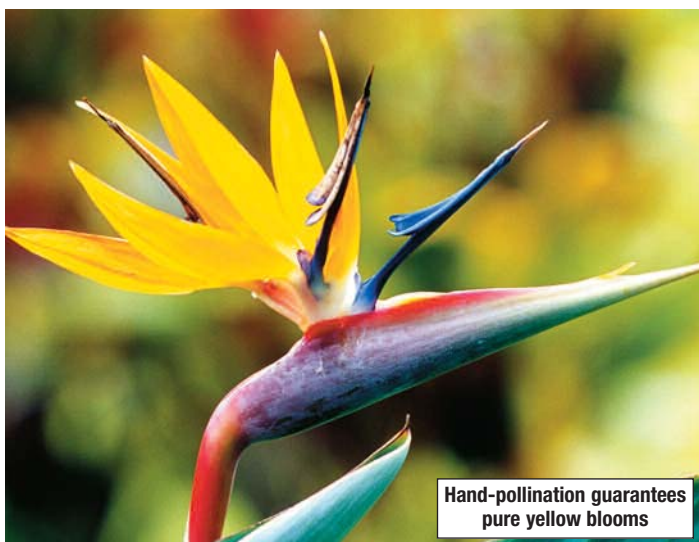
This is a very rare, yellow form of the well-known bird of paradise. Yellow-flowering strelitzias have been known of for a number of years. Plants have been spotted at a few locations around the world including Kirstenbosch and the Karoo Desert National Botanical Gardens in the eastern cape of South Africa, however always as isolated specimens. These specimens, if left to their own devices, will not breed true as they will most likely have been pollinated by the more common orange-flowering plant. The crossing of two yellow-flowering plants is the only way to ensure that yellow flowering plants are produced.

In 1970, there were just seven yellow plants at the Kirstenbosch Nursery. After embarking on a project to increase stock, the nursery has spent twenty years painstakingly hand-pollinating and selecting the variety, resulting in a small quantity of seed becoming available in 1994. In 1996, the Kirstenbosch Botanical Gardens were granted permission to rename the variety in honour of Nelson Mandela.

Again, after a number of years of waiting for the stocks to increase, Thompson & Morgan is now delighted to be able to offer this stunning variety to gardeners. They now have the chance to grow and experience the flamboyant, golden yellow and purple blooms. As these plants have all been hand-pollinated, customers can be 100% certain that their seed is pure yellow.



**Strelitzia  
'Mandela's Gold'**



**Hand-pollination guarantees  
pure yellow blooms**

**Strelitzia reginae 'Mandela's Gold'** produces greyish-green banana-like leaves growing to a height of 1.2-1.8m (4-6ft). Once established they will produce large bird-like flowers, held above the foliage on the tips of long, sturdy stalks. Each flower consists of three clear yellow sepals and three deep purple petals giving the appearance of a crest on an exotic bird's head. **Strelitzia reginae 'Mandela's Gold'** exotic appearance makes it ideal for growing in containers in a warm glasshouse or conservatory.

**Strelitzia reginae 'Mandela's Gold'** £6.99 for 3 seeds.

To place an order call the order line: 01473 695225 or order online at [www.thompson-morgan.com/seeds](http://www.thompson-morgan.com/seeds). To request a free copy of the 2009 Thompson & Morgan Seed Catalogue call 01473 695224 quoting PRS9.

To locate your nearest Thompson & Morgan stockist call: 01473 688821 or visit our website.

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