

Uvularia grandiflora Sm.; Bellwort &
Uvularia perfoliata L.; Wood Merrybells

These two species, which are identified from each other only by very minor characteristics, make a very interesting addition to a shady perennial bed. Naturally found in moist woodlands these spring wildflowers thrive under cultivation. They do not spread aggressively and are one of the first flowers to bring color to my garden in the spring. When in flower the leaves are more or less rolled up and the stems are bent at the top so the delicate light yellow flowers are pendulous. After flowering the stems straighten out and the leaves unfurl to produce a little twelve-inch high canopy.

Partial to full shade in a humus-rich, constantly moist soil are the ideal conditions for these species though they will tolerate well drained soils. Pests are few to none.



Photos © D.P. Emmitt

Uvularia grandiflora & *U. perfoliata*
Bell Wort & Wood Merrybells

This is not a species that your normal garden center keeps in stock. But if you really want to give it a try an Internet search should turn up a supplier.