

Beach Evening Primrose

Camissonia cheiranthifolia

Evening Primrose Family, *Onagraceae*



This beach baby is a common coastal plant found on sand dunes and beaches. It favors full sun and sand. First forming a rosette of whitish gray foliage, the plant produces prostrate shoots that grow in many directions. The spreading foliage sometimes forms large, dense mats. The solitary flowers are yellow, turning to reddish. They are formed from four bright yellow petals, sometimes with one or two red spots near the base. Short lived, each flower opens at dawn and blooms for only one day.

Apr–Aug • Ma, So, Na, Me

Prostrate stems 60 cm, 2 ft



Beach Evening Primrose



Sun Cup

Camissonia ovata

Evening Primrose Family,
Onagraceae



A harbinger of spring, this very charming plant has great smile appeal. The bright yellow cup like flower is nestled in a circle of equally bright green leaves. Four petals form the flower and all flower parts are vivid sunshine yellow. There is no stem, as what looks like a stem is really a very long flower tube, and the ovary is hidden underground. Common to grassy areas.

In the garden they'll take some foot traffic and grow happily in the toughest clay soil.

Mar–Jun • Ma, So, Na, Me
Ground hugger



Sun Cup

Hooker's Evening Primrose

Oenothera elata ssp. *hookeri*

Evening Primrose Family, *Onagraceae*



This tall, showy native pleasures summer evening strollers along moist coastal and slightly inland bluffs. Also found along coastal marsh edges, its pretty and quite fragrant flowers bloom in late afternoon and at dusk. Sometimes quite tall, this plant has hairy, lance shaped leaves. Clusters of bright yellow, fading to reddish orange flowers, with four heart shaped petals are borne atop leafy long stems.

This is a showy biennial with beautiful yellow flowers that appear the second year. It reseeds profusely in the garden, needs low to moderate water, good drainage, and does well in sandy soils. Common in wildflower seed mixes.

Jun–Sep • Ma, So, Na, Me
30–150 cm, 1–5 ft



Hooker's Evening Primrose

California Buttercup

Ranunculus californicus

Buttercup Family, *Ranunculaceae*



This cheerful yellow charmer is a welcome sight in late winter. One of the most common of our wildflowers, its Latin name means “little frog” for its preference for wet meadows, damp slopes and generally moist habitats.

The plant has waxy flowers of 7-22 white to lemon yellow petals forming a little cup. Petals have a shiny upper surface and a nectar gland at the base of each. The wedge shaped leaves are toothed or deeply cut and feathery on the ends.

Native Americans boiled the roots, roasted the seeds and extracted yellow dye from the flowers.

Feb–May • Ma, So, Na, Me
15–60 cm, 6–24 in



California Buttercup