



Evening Primrose (*Oenothera biennis*)

Sharon Bodie, UMN Extension Crow Wing County Master Gardener Volunteer

Evening Primrose is an upright, fragrant and showy biennial. Bowl shaped, lemon scented yellow flowers are produced from early summer to early fall of the second year. Flowers open in the evening (picture on the left) and close in the morning when hit by the sun (picture on the right). Thus, the name evening primrose. Commonly grows in fields, prairies, along roadsides and railroad right-of-ways.



Type	Herbaceous biennial that takes two years to complete its life cycle. It self-seeds keeping it growing like a perennial.
Hardiness Zone	4 - 9
Sun	Full sun preferred, but will tolerate some afternoon partial shade
Bloom Time	June to September
Height	3 - 5 feet
Spread	2 - 3 feet
Tolerance	Tolerates poor soils and drought
Attracts	Birds, moths and butterflies
Additional Features	Deer resistant, plant and roots are edible

Soil and Site Recommendations

- Drainage: well-drained soil.
- Soil pH: 6.0 - 8.0
- Type: type loamy soil

Planting Recommendations

- Propagation: seed
- When to plant: sow seeds in fall
- Depth of planting: barely cover seeds

- Fertilizer: requires an adequate amount of nitrogen
- Spacing: 6 - 12 inches apart
- Division/transplant tips: plant self-seeds

Maintenance

- Watering: medium
- Pinching/deadheading: cut back after flowering

Common Problems

Disease: no serious problems, but watch for spot and powdery mildew

Insects: no serious problems

Resources

www.missouribotanicalgarden.org

<https://plants.ces.ncsu.edu>

<https://www.wildflower.org>

Questions or problems: “What’s wrong with my plant?” see links below.

<http://apps.extension.umn.edu/garden/diagnose/plant/>

<https://extension.umn.edu/yard-and-garden#solve>

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