

Oenothera macrocarpa - Stemless Evening Primrose

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Photo Credit: Keith A. Williamson

Botanic name:	<i>Oenothera macrocarpa</i>
Common name:	Stemless Evening Primrose, Missouri Evening Primrose
Height:	4 – 5 inches
Spread:	20 – 30 inches
Light:	Part sun to full sun
Water:	Medium water: once established then low water
Soil:	Well drained
Growth Habit:	Long lived perennial

Few plants do yellow or white as well as Evening Primroses: the Missouri Evening Primrose (*Oenothera macrocarpa*) boasts not only giant flowers that can be 6” or more across, but of a luminous evocative and very pleasing butter yellow color that seems to glow if the day is sunny or cloudy – never more so than in the evening when the fresh flowers have just “popped”. They start blooming in May, most years, and can have flowers emerging on their spreading mats daily throughout the summer and autumn months. All of them have the glowing, rounded flowers. I love the papery seedpods as well – four angled contraptions that look like the paper “cootie catchers” so popular among little kids once.

Few plants are as adaptable or touch or long lived as the evening primroses. They produce massive tap roots (almost like tree trunks in older plants) and can live as long as peonies in the right spot. They thrive in many kinds of soils, provided they are well drained, and do best with at least a half days sun.



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