

XERISCAPE

NATURE'S CHOICE OF LANDSCAPE



Oenothera (Evening Primrose)

Oenotheras are spreading or clumping groundcovers, native to the plains, grasslands and deserts of North America. They have large, showy four-petaled flowers in pink, white, or yellow, and create carpets of bright color in desert landscapes. Oenotheras are generally night-blooming plants, but most will stay open until midday.

These widely adapted plants can be used in a variety of landscape situations from full sun to light shade. They are especially attractive when used in groupings and as a groundcover or color accent under desert trees such as palo verdes or mesquites. Evening primroses blend well with other perennial wildflowers. All types of evening primroses produce seeds that are a rich source for food for desert songbirds. The flowers attract nocturnal wildlife.

Oenothera berlandieri

Mexican Evening Primrose

The most common form of Mexican evening primrose has 1 ½ inch bright pink flowers that open in the early morning and can remain open throughout the day. This variety blooms profusely in the early spring, and can continue to flower throughout the warm season with adequate irrigation. Mexican evening primrose spreads quickly and is useful for stabilizing soil on banks or slopes. It should be used with caution in areas near irrigated beds where it can become invasive. Rangy, overgrown, or frost damaged plants can be cut to the ground. While the foliage can burn in the low 20's, regrowth occurs quickly from underground stems (rhizomes). Watch for infestations of flea beetle in spring and fall, which can be controlled with an application of Bt (*Bacillus thuringensis*) if necessary.

Oenothera caespitosa

White-tufted Evening Primrose

The exceptionally large, showy and fragrant flowers of the white-tufted evening primrose open in the evening and remain open throughout the night, closing when the sun reaches them in the morning. Flowering is heaviest in the spring and early summer but may occur throughout the warm season. The lance-shaped blue-green leaves form a compact clump. This low growing accent is especially attractive when planted where it can be viewed from a porch or patio during the evening or early morning hours. This plant appreciates well drained soil and prefers partial shade in low desert areas. Use *Oenothera caespitosa* as an accent plant or perennial wildflower.

Oenothera stubbei

Chihuahuan Primrose

2 inch yellow flowers open above rosettes of bright green foliage on this attractive groundcover, which spreads from long, above-ground runners that may root where soil moisture is adequate. Flowers open in the evening, and can last until late morning. Plant in areas where they can be easily viewed and enjoyed while in bloom. This **non**-invasive species gives a lush oasis effect and requires more supplemental water than other types of evening primroses. Chihuahuan primrose prefers partial shade and well drained soils. During the cold winter months, the foliage will turn a deep red color.