

Evening primrose

Oenothera biennis L.

Group: Dicot

Family: Onagraceae
(evening primrose)

Growth Habit: Forb/herb

Duration: Biennial

U.S. Nativity: Native

Natural Enemies

Attracted: Medium numbers of *Plagiognathus politus* and *Orius insidiosus*. Small numbers of *Chalcidoidea*, *Thomisidae*, *Coccinellidae*, *Braconidae* and *Nabidae*.

Pests Attracted: Large numbers of lygus bugs, leafhoppers, and Japanese beetles. Small numbers of thrips, aphids, leaf beetles and weevils.

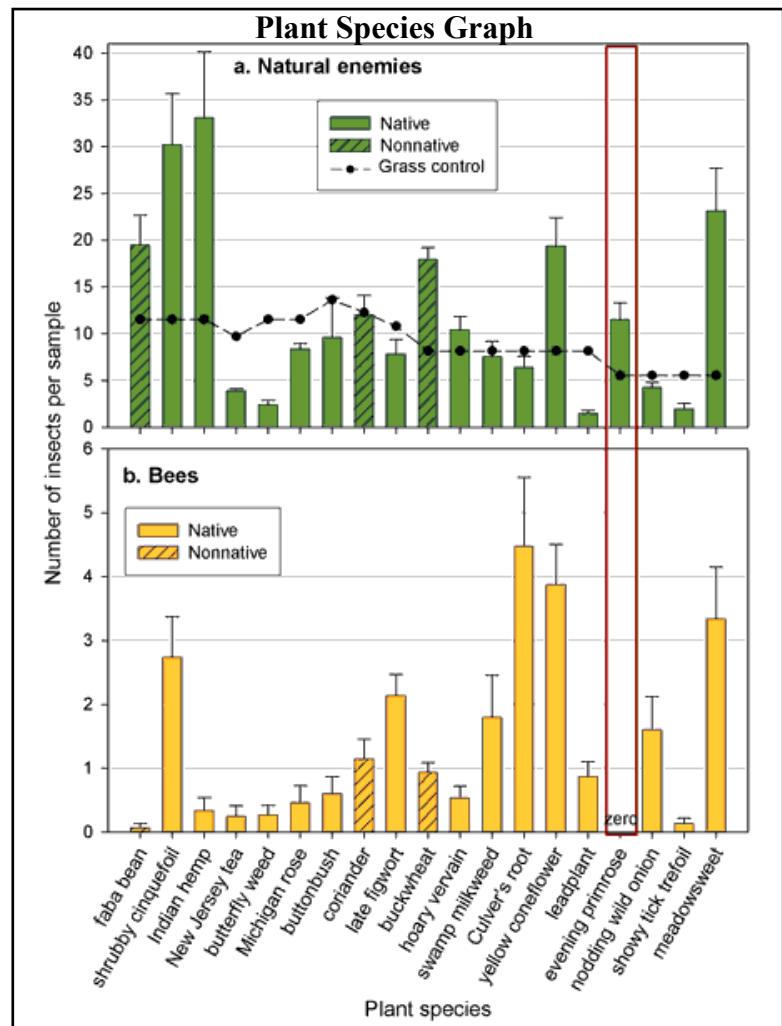
Bees attracted: None collected using the vacuum sampling method, but low numbers (less than 1 bee per meter square during 5 minute visual observations) of bees were observed.

Species Notes: This biennial has one inch wide pale yellow flowers at the end of a bush-like plant in its second growing season (the first year after plugs are planted). It filled in well and grows 2-4 ft tall. This species bloomed from late July through mid August. This was the seventh most attractive mid season plant to natural enemies, with two times more natural enemies than the grass control.



About the Plant Species Graph:

Average number of beneficial insects collected at each plant species the week before, during, and after peak bloom, for plant species blooming from mid-August through early October (+ standard error). Evening primrose (*Oenothera biennis*) boxed in red. Bars for natural enemies are in green, bars for bees are in yellow. Bars for native plants are solid and nonnative plants are striped. The black line on the top graph shows the number of natural enemies in grass with no flowering plants (grass control). Plants are listed in order of peak bloom.



Habitat: Tolerance includes full sun to partial shade, and mid-range soil moisture (neither very wet nor very dry). Naturally occurring in fields, clearings, dry, sandy roadsides, and on disturbed ground.

Cultivation and Management: Blooms in second or third year when grown from seed. Also can be grown from plug material (flowers in first or second year). Evening primrose is useful in early stages of establishment of naturalized areas. Although attractive to natural enemies, this species was infested with Japanese beetle.

Availability: Species is available as seed, plug or container grown material from various native plant nurseries. See the Michigan Native Plant Producers Association

For more information: View the online USDA-NRCS PLANTS database

