



Beach Primrose

(*Camissoniopsis cheiranthifolia*) Family: Onagraceae

Description: This beach primrose (or beach suncup) is native to the open dunes and sandy soils of the California and Oregon coast. It grows prostrate along the beach surface, forming mats more than 3 feet (1m) across. Leaves form a central, star-shaped rosette, with leafy stems radiating out from the center. Leaves usually have a dense covering of hairs and are a silvery gray-green color. The four-petaled flowers open in the morning (typical among suncups) and are bright yellow, fading to reddish.

Pollinator and Wildlife Use: Beach primrose is pollinated by bees. Bumblebees fly close to the sand surface where winds are less strong in order to visit these low-growing dune flowers.

Erosion Prevention: A deep taproot and low-growing form help anchor this plant in shifting sands and winds along the coast.

Other Facts: *Camissonia cheiranthifolia* ssp. *suffruticosa* is a subspecies from southern California that was used in past restoration efforts and is now considered an invasive weed (displacing the native subspecies) in the Presidio in San Francisco.



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References and Useful Websites:

calflora.org/cgi-bin/species_query.cgi?where-taxon=Camissoniopsis+cheiranthifolia

wikipedia.org/wiki/Camissoniopsis_cheiranthifolia

nps.gov/prsf/learn/nature/beach-evening-primrose.htm

[calscape.org/Camissoniopsis-cheiranthifolia-ssp.-cheiranthifolia-\(Beach-Evening-Primrose\)?srchr=sc56b1e754d5539](http://calscape.org/Camissoniopsis-cheiranthifolia-ssp.-cheiranthifolia-(Beach-Evening-Primrose)?srchr=sc56b1e754d5539)



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