

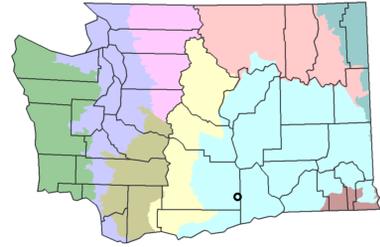
Oenothera flava* (A. Nelson) Garrett *ssp. flava

long-tubed evening-primrose

Onagraceae - evening primrose family

status: State Possibly Extirpated, USFS strategic

rank: G5T3T5 / SH



General Description: Tufted, stemless perennial, sparsely covered with small, straight, glandular, appressed hairs, or nearly hairless. Leaves all basal, rosette-forming, oblanceolate, 3-36 cm long, up to 15 mm broad, with the lower portion deeply cleft or lobed, and the uppermost part entire to somewhat wavy and toothed.

Floral Characteristics: Flowers sessile among the leaves, opening in the evening. Calyx usually purplish, 2-12 cm long; lobes 4, free or slightly fused and turned to one side. Petals 4, yellow, aging to purplish or orange, 10-30 (38) mm long. Anthers linear, 4-8 mm long. Stigma with linear lobes, about 3 mm long.



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Fruits: Capsules woody, ovoid, 10-40 mm long, and conspicuously 4-winged; wings 2-6 mm wide. The single WA collection was found in early June, but it blooms later in most of its range.

Identification Tips: Within WA, *O. flava* may be confused with *O. cespitosa*. However, *O. flava* has yellow petals that reach up to 2 cm long and capsules that are conspicuously winged, while *O. cespitosa* has white petals that are well over 2 cm long and capsules that lack wings.

Range: Alberta, Sask., south to Mexico in the Rocky Mt. states, and west to OR and CA. Known in WA from 1 historical collection from 1884.

Habitat/Ecology: In WA *O. flava* was found growing along the Yakima River. Throughout its range, it is found in hard-packed soil, in swales, riparian areas, moist meadows, around vernal pools, and other seasonally moist sites in sagebrush grasslands and low-elevation woodlands. It may occur in both wetlands and nonwetlands.

Comments: Surveys of Yakima Co. conducted in 1981 were negative. The historical site may no longer support native vegetation. This species is rare in WY, Sask., and Alberta.

References: Hickman 1993.



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