Sundrops

Oenothera fruticosa

Sundrops flowers
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Plant Height: 18 inches

Flower Height: 24 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 20 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Evening Primrose

Description:

An upright, mounded plant with flowers stalks holding bright yellow cup-shaped flowers above the plant; a vigorous grower that tolerates dry conditions; excellent for sunny dry areas, containers and rock gardens

Sundrops in bloom
Photo courtesy of NetPS Plant Finder

Ornamental Features

Sundrops has masses of beautiful lightly-scented yellow cup-shaped flowers along the stems in early summer, which emerge from distinctive red flower buds, and which are most effective when planted in groupings. Its pointy leaves remain green in colour throughout the season.

Landscape Attributes

Sundrops is an herbaceous perennial with an upright spreading habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This is a relatively low maintenance plant, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. It is a good choice for attracting butterflies to your yard. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spreading

Sundrops is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Border Edging
- General Garden Use
- Groundcover
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens

Planting & Growing

Sundrops will grow to be about 18 inches tall at maturity extending to 24 inches tall with the flowers, with a spread of 24 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 20 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a fast rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 10 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. It is not particular as to soil type or pH. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This species is native to parts of North America. It can be propagated by division.