



Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

Oenothera speciosa

Educating people about the environmental necessity, economic value, and natural beauty of native plants

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Common name

Pink evening primrose

Range

Prairies and open woodlands throughout Texas, but rare and few in north and west Texas. Of the 25 species found in Texas, most are yellow or white-flowered. *O. speciosa* and a few others are pink, although populations of *O. speciosa* in north Texas tend to have white flowers. Another species, *O. missouriensis*, grows on limestone soil, prairies, and dry hillsides in north-central Texas, the Edwards Plateau, and northwest Texas.

Life cycle

Herbaceous perennial that forms underground rhizomes.

Bloom period

Late spring – summer.

Soil preference

Readily colonizes in open areas in a variety of soils.

Exposure

Sun

Propagation

Getting the seed to germinate may be difficult. The pre-germination requirements are not determined for *O. speciosa*. We suggest planting seed in the fall. After distributing seed evenly, rake into loosened topsoil to ensure good seed/soil contact.

Many of the *Oenothera* species, except *O. speciosa* are under commercial production. With all its drought resistance, habitat flexibility, and color, *O. speciosa* is an excellent candidate for further research. Its addition to wildflower seed mixes and landscaping plans would provide a hardy, colorful attraction.

Seeding rate

6 pounds per acre, or 1 oz. per 100 sq. ft.



Maintenance

Extremely drought-tolerant and easy to maintain. A good addition to a low maintenance garden. Allow seeds to completely mature before mowing for reseeding or collecting seed to plant in a new area.

Miscellaneous

Even during extreme conditions of drought and heat when other wildflowers are sparse and shortlived, this attractive wildflower is abundant in open, sunny fields and along parched roadsides.

As the name implies, most of these species also open their flowers in the evening, closing them again early each morning. Pink evening primrose, however, opens its flowers in the morning, closing each evening. To further complicate matters, populations in north Texas tend to open in the evening.