

OENOTHERA OAKESIANA Robbins  
Oakes' Evening-primrose

FAMILY: Onagraceae

SYNONYMS: *Oenothera parviflora* L. var. *oakesiana* (Robbins) Fern.  
*Oenothera biennis* L. var. *oakesiana* A. Gray

HABIT: Erect to procumbent biennial herb with a taproot, stem 1-6 dm tall; leaves 3.5-20 cm long, 0.5-2.7 cm wide, very narrowly oblanceolate; flower petals yellow; flowering in July to September and sometimes into October.

SIMILAR SPECIES: This species is very similar to *Oenothera parviflora*, *O. biennis* and *O. clelandii*. It differs from *O. parviflora* by its inflorescence lacking gland-tipped hairs. *Oenothera oakesiana* sepals are separate at base unlike *O. biennis*, which are closely connivent at base. It differs from *O. clelandii* by its seeds not being pitted and the fruit being broad at the base.

TOTAL RANGE: Newfoundland to VA and WV, w. to MN and AR.

STATE RANGE (as of 2008): Post-1980 records are from Ashtabula, Erie, Lake, Lucas, and Ottawa counties.

HABITAT: Sand dunes and beaches.

HAZARDS: Recreation, beach erosion.

RECOVERY POTENTIAL: Probably poor due to its limited habitat.

INVENTORY GUIDELINES: Collect complete, mature material.

COMMENTS: Some manuals include it as a variety of *O. parviflora* or *O. biennis*. Hybridization is likely frequent among the species. Careful examination is necessary to identify this species.

It should be sought throughout northern Ohio on sand dunes and beaches along the Lake Erie coast.

SELECTED REFERENCES:

Dietrich, W., W. L. Wagner, and P. H. Raven. 1997. Systematics of *Oenothera* Section *Oenothera* Subsection *Oenothera* (Onagraceae), Systematic Botany Monographs. 234 pp.

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Voss, E.G. 1985. Michigan Flora, Part II. Dicots (Saururaceae-Cornaceae). Cranbrook Inst. Sci.

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