



ARIZONA-SONORA DESERT MUSEUM PLANT CARE INFORMATION

Hooker Evening Primrose *Oenothera (hookeri) elata*

DESCRIPTION: Hooker Evening Primrose is found along streams and in meadows in Arizona and Sonora, at elevations of 3000' and higher. It is a short-lived perennial (biennial). In its seedling year it forms a rosette of strap-shaped leaves a foot or more across. The second season it sends up tall stalks of large yellow flowers. These are fragrant and open in the evening, staying open into the next day. Sphinx moths are its primary pollinator, and may be used as a larval food plant for some species.

RECOMMENDED USE: Forms an attractive component of a transition zone. Grows and looks best against walls or among rocks.

CULTURE:



Hardiness: At least to 10° F.



Sun tolerance: Either full sun or part shade. Hooker Evening Primrose blooms during the late spring into early fall.



Growing conditions: Hooker Evening Primrose is a moderate to high water user, especially in sunnier locations. Good for shady, moist sites as long as the soil drains. Plant on margins of stream or pond or higher on the banks (see the Aquatic Plants information page; microhabitats #1 and #2). Fertilize twice yearly if not too close to water



Pruning: It requires no pruning. It is a short-lived perennial, but will readily set seed and provide a continual supply of seedlings.