

***Oenothera cespitosa* Nutt. ssp. *marginata* (Nutt.  
ex Hook. & Arn.) Munz**

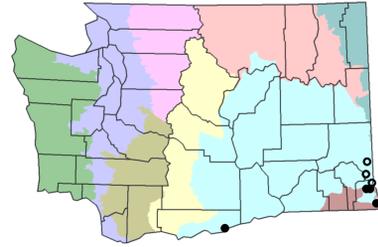
synonym: *Oenothera caespitosa* Nutt. var. *marginata*  
(Nutt. ex Hook. + Arn.) Munz

tufted evening-primrose

Onagraceae - evening primrose family

status: State Threatened, BLM sensitive, USFS sensitive

rank: G5T3T5 / S1



**General Description:** Tufted, fragrant perennial with flowering stems 1-18 cm long. Herbage with long, soft or stiff hairs, 1-3 mm; and shorter, erect, gland-tipped hairs, less than 0.5 mm. Leaves nearly all basal, or occasionally alternate above, up to 18 cm long; blades narrowly to broadly oblanceolate, weakly toothed, the petioles slender.

**Floral Characteristics:** Flowers axillary, on stalks well over 2 mm, opening at sunset. Free hypanthium slender, somewhat flared above, (3) 5-12 cm long. Calyx lobes 4, reflexed and pink-tinted when flowering, 2-3 cm long. Petals 4, white or yellow, aging to pinkish or purple, heart-shaped, clawless, 2.5-4.5 cm long. Stamens 8; anthers 8-13 mm long. Stigma lobes 4, linear, 5-8 mm long.

**Fruits:** Woody, oblong-ovoid capsules, 2.5-6.8 cm long, sessile or on stalks up to 5.5 cm long, straight, angled but not winged, tuberculate.

**Identification Tips:** Distinctive with its large pinnately lobed to coarsely toothed leaves; stiffly erect, hairy, large flowers; and cylindrical, straight capsules usually on long pedicels. This subspecies has long, soft, shaggy, spreading hairs, as well as short gland-tipped hairs. In contrast, *O. cespitosa* ssp. *cespitosa*\* has short, glandless hairs that are usually more appressed.

**Range:** WA south to CA, and east to ID, WY, CO, and TX. This taxon was thought to be extirpated in WA until recently.

**Habitat/Ecology:** Dry hills, rocky slopes, and exposed dry washes in open grasslands. It will colonize road cuts and other disturbed sites if there is a seed source. Elevations in WA: 145-300 m (475-1000 ft). Associated species include purple sage (*Salvia dorrii*), rabbitbrush (*Ericameria nauseosa*), snow buckwheat (*Eriogonum niveum*), bluebunch wheatgrass (*Pseudoroegneria spicata*), Carey's balsamroot (*Balsamorhiza careyana*), and clustered broomrape (*Orobanche fasciculata*). Pollinators of the *O. cespitosa* group are hawk moths (Sphingidae).

**Comments:** This taxon is also rare in WY.

**References:** Hickman 1993; Wagner et al. 1985.



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