Native Plant of the Month

Yellow Marsh Marigold
*Caltha palustris var. asarifolia*

- “*Caltha*” comes from an early Greek name for a similar yellow-flowered plant; “*palustris*” comes from Latin for swampy, marshy.
- The word “*marigold*” comes from “Mary’s Gold,” a medieval name for a yellow daisy sacred to the Virgin Mary.
- A very early flowering plant that is found in bogs along the Northwest coast.
- Formerly part of an extensive willow plant community in swamps that covered Oregon and Washington lowlands, yellow marsh marigold is now greatly reduced.

Landscape Value

Yellow marsh marigolds are charming plants for the bog garden, with attractive succulent foliage and an early season buttercup flower.

Bog gardens need to be peaty, high acid (4.0 pH), and moist year-round. It is possible to create wetland bogs by using existing wet sites or by making artificial ponds using pond liners, and incorporating peat mix soils.

Yellow marsh marigold can be grown with other interesting bog and wetland plants such as bog birch, Labrador tea, cotton grass, marsh cinquefoil, shooting star, and bog rosemary.

*Text by Heidi Bohan*

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*Caltha leptosepala* (or *C. biflora*) is a similar species, with white flowers.