

# School-to-Nature



## Marsh Marigold

The botanical name of the Marsh Marigold is *Caltha Palustris*, which translates as “cup of the marshes.” This is a very apt title for this golden spring wildflower that blooms in wild shady or partly-shady areas of the woods that are moist: near ponds, marshes, ditches, and other low areas of woodlands and meadows where water gathers. It can grow 1-3 feet tall, and plant clumps can be 1-1.5 feet wide.

They are one of the first signs of spring, with bright yellow clumps of blossoms, each having 5-6 petals. They bloom from March to July. In our area on Conservancy properties, we see them at their best in April. They are sensitive to cold and will not survive a late spring frost.

There are 50 or more members of the Marigold family, producing daisy- or carnation-like blossoms in many colors including orange, red, maroon, yellow or mixed shades. Marsh marigolds are golden yellow.

The Marsh Marigold is a food source for 3 dozen species of early bees and flies.

The flower parts of Marsh Marigold have been used for pain, menstrual disorders, bronchitis, and liver disorders. However, this flower is considered unsafe because of its side effects, irritating the digestive system. **When Marsh Marigold comes in contact with the skin, it may cause blisters and burns.** Enjoy it where you see it.



Marsh Marigold seeds

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