

marsh marigold

Caltha palustris

Kingdom: Plantae
Division: Magnoliophyta
Class: Magnoliopsida
Order: Ranunculales
Family: Ranunculaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

FEATURES

The dark green leaves of marsh marigold are shiny. This member of the buttercup family has large, hollow stems. The plant may reach two feet in height. It completes its life cycle by mid-summer and will retain leaves longer if growing in moist soil. There are five to nine yellow sepals per flower. The flowers are large, up to one and one-half inches in diameter. The leaves are heart- or kidney-shaped.

BEHAVIORS

Marsh marigold grows naturally in the northern two-thirds of Illinois, particularly in wet areas and moist woodlands. Its large yellow flowers are among the earliest wildflower blossoms opening in spring. It blooms from April through June.

ILLINOIS RANGE



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Aquatic Habitats

wet prairies and fens

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none