

## NYCTAGINACEAE – FOUR-O’CLOCK FAMILY

**Plant:** mostly herbs, sometimes woody, shrubs and trees

**Stem:**

**Root:** sometimes fleshy

**Leaves:** simple, entire or wavy, mostly opposite, rarely alternate; no stipules

**Flowers:** perfect or rarely imperfect; flower held in a 2-5, calyx-like involucre (bracts) that may be green or colored; 5 sepals, fused and often funnel-shaped – often mistaken for petals; no petals; 5 stamens or rarely 1-3 or many; ovary superior, 1 carpel

**Fruit:** small inflated pod (dried calyx), holding the seeds

**Other:** most abundant in the tropics; four-o’clocks commonly cultivated;  
Dicotyledons Group

**Genera:** 30+ genera; locally *Mirabilis* (umbrella-wort)

## **NYCTAGINACEAE – FOUR-O’CLOCK FAMILY**

**Pale Umbrella-Wort [White Four-O-Clock]; *Mirabilis albida* (Walter) Heimerl**

**Heart-Leaved Umbrella-Wort [Four-O-Clock]; *Oxybaphus nyctagineus* (Michx.) MacM.**

# Pale Umbrella-Wort [White Four-O-Clock]



*Mirabilis albida* (Walter) Heimerl

Nyctaginaceae (Four-O'Clock Family)

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, Greene County,  
Missouri

Notes: calyx flower (no petals), light pink, lobed, in green  
bract cup, cup persistent in fruit; leaves narrow  
lanceolate, length less than 10-12X width; stem fine  
hairy; angles of fruit roughened with small projections;  
late spring to fall

[V Max Brown, 2010]



# Heart-Leaved Umbrella-Wort

## [Four-O-Clock]

*Oxybaphus nyctagineus* (Michx.) MacM.

Nyctaginaceae (Four-O'Clock Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: calyx flower (no petals), pink to purple, lobed, in green bract cup, cup persistent in fruit; leaves opposite, ovate to cordate, all but upper leaves stalked (1+ cm); mostly in sandy soils; late spring to early fall

[V Max Brown, 2005]

