

PRIMULACEAE – PRIMROSE FAMILY

Plant: herbs, rarely woody plants

Stem: sometimes with colored sap or juice

Root:

Leaves: mostly simple, mostly opposite but some alternate or whorled, sometimes basal; no stipules

Flowers: perfect; sepals 5, rarely 4-9, sometimes united at base; most with 5 petals or sometimes absent, often united at base; usually 5 stamens, opposite corolla lobes, or to sepals if no petals are present; ovary superior to partially inferior, usually 5 carpels, 1 style, few to many ovules

Fruit: capsule, 1 to many seeds

Other: Dicotyledons Group

Genera: 24+ genera (disputed); locally *Anagallis*, *Lysimachia* (loosestrife),
Samolus

Flower Morphology in the Primulaceae (Primrose Family)

5 sepals, 5 petals or none, petals often fused at base



Eastern Shooting Star



Gooseneck Loosestrife



Scarlet Pimpernel



SwampCandle]



Moneywort [Creeping Jenny]



Fringed Loosestrife

PRIMULACEAE – PRIMROSE FAMILY

Scarlet Pimpernel [Poor Man's Lookingglass]; *Anagallis arvensis* L. ssp. *arvensis* (Introduced)
Eastern Shooting Star [Pride of Ohio]; *Dodecatheon meadia* L. ssp. *Meadia*
Gooseneck Loosestrife; *Lysimachia clethroides* Duby (Introduced)
Fringed Loosestrife; *Lysimachia ciliata* L.
Lance-Leaved Loosestrife; *Lysimachia lanceolata* Walt.
Moneywort [Creeping Jenny]; *Lysimachia nummularia* L. (Introduced)
Narrow-Leaved [Four-Flowered Yellow] Loosestrife; *Lysimachia quadriflora* Sims
Whorled [Yellow, Four-Leaved] Loosestrife; *Lysimachia quadrifolia* L.
SwampCandle [Earth Loosestrife]; *Lysimachia terrestris* (L.) Britton, Sterns & Poggenb.
Tufted Loosestrife; *Lysimachia thyrsoflora* L.
Water Pimpernel; *Samolus valerandi* L. ssp. *Parviflorus* (Raf.) Hultén
Starflower; *Trientalis borealis* Raf. ssp. *Borealis*

Scarlet Pimpernel [Poor Man's Lookingglass]

Anagallis arvensis L. ssp. *arvensis* (Introduced)

Primulaceae (Primrose Family)

Springfield area, Greene County, Missouri

Notes: 5-petaled (deeply lobed) flower, orange, growing on long pedicels from leaf axils, 5 green sepals; leaves opposite, sessile, ovate; a prostrate or sprawling plant; summer to fall

[V Max Brown, 2007]



Eastern Shooting Star [Pride of Ohio]



Dodecatheon meadia L. ssp. *Meadia*

Primulaceae (Primrose Family)

Whipple (R.A.) State Nature Preserve, Adams
County, Ohio

Notes: 5-petaled (deeply lobed almost to base)
flower, white to pink to lilac, flowers from an
umbel on a long scape, 5 deeply lobed green
sepals; leaves basal, lanceolate, leaf blade
gradually tapers to petiole; woods, spring

[V Max Brown, 2009]



Gooseneck Loosestrife

Lysimachia clethroides Duby

(Introduced)

Primulaceae (Primrose Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: 5 petaled flower, white (pink), 5 green
sepals, on curved spike; leaves alternate, ovate to
lanceolate, sharp pointed; summer

[V Max Brown, 2006]



Fringed Loosestrife

Lysimachia ciliata L.

Primulaceae (Primrose Family)

University or Toledo Campus, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: 5-petaled (or deeply lobed) flower, yellow, toothed or pointed, mostly solitary from upper leaf axils; leaves ovate to lanceolate, sharp pointed, petioles with fringing hairs; stem mostly glabrous; wet areas usually; summer

[V Max Brown, 2005]



Lance-Leaved Loosestrife

Lysimachia lanceolata Walt.

Primulaceae (Primrose Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: 5-petaled (or deeply lobed) flower, yellow, mostly solitary in leaf axils; leaves opposite, lanceolate to mostly linear, tapering to base, stiff hairs (ciliate) on base of tapered leaf blade or short petiole if present, veins pinnate; summer

[V Max Brown, 2005]



Moneywort [Creeping Jenny]

Lysimachia nummularia L. (Introduced)

Primulaceae (Primrose Family)

Maumee River Metroparks, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: 5-petaled (or deeply lobed) flower, yellow, sometimes with red;
leaves opposite, ovate to orbicular; stem mostly glabrous; plant
creeping, mat-forming; moist areas; early spring to summer

[V Max Brown, 2004]



Narrow-Leaved [Four-Flowered Yellow]

Loosestrife

Lysimachia quadriflora Sims (*longifolia*)

Primulaceae (Primrose Family)

Maumee River Metroparks, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: 5-petaled (or deeply lobed) flower, yellow, solitary from leaf axils but may seem to be in clusters; leaves opposite, mostly linear, edges of leaves tend to roll under (revolute); stem mostly glabrous; wet areas and shores; summer to early fall

[V Max Brown, 2006]



Whorled [Yellow, Four-Leaved]

Loosestrife

Lysimachia quadrifolia L.

Primulaceae (Primrose Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: 5-petaled flower (or deeply 5-lobed), yellow, often with dark lines, mostly on long pedicels from leaf axils; leaves ovate to lanceolate, in whorls of 4-5 (-7); stem glabrous to somewhat hairy; woods; summer

[V Max Brown, 2005]



SwampCandle [Earth Loosestrife]

Lysimachia terrestris (L.) Britton, Sterns & Poggenb.

Primulaceae (Primrose Family)

Irwin Prairie Nature Preserve, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: 5-petaled flower (or very deeply 5-lobed), yellow, usually with darker lines, on long pedicels from many flowered terminal raceme; leaves linear-lanceolate to linear-elliptical, opposite, leafy at base, edges not curled, side veins not prominent; stem mostly glabrous; moist areas; summer

[V Max Brown, 2008]



Tufted Loosestrife

Lysimachia thyrsiflora L.
Primulaceae (Primrose Family)

Waterloo Recreation Area,
Washtenaw County, Michigan

Notes: 6-lobed corolla (very deeply lobed), yellow;
flowers in dense spikes on long pedicel from leaf
axils, motly from the middle portion of the stem;
leaves opposite, lanceolate, and mostly sessile;
stem and pedicels hairy; bogs, marshes and often
standing in water; late spring to early summer

[V Max Brown, 2009]



Water Pimpernel [Brookweed]

Samolus valerandi L. ssp. *Parviflorus*

(Raf.) Hultén

Primulaceae (Primrose Family)

Alley Springs, Ozark National Riverways,
Shannon County, Missouri

Notes: 5-petaled flower (5-lobed), white, borne on
racemes; leaves ovate, alternate, lower leaves with
petioles; wet or moist areas; summer

[V Max Brown, 2007]



Starflower

Trientalis borealis Raf. ssp. *Borealis*

Primulaceae (Primrose Family)

Waterloo Recreation Area, Washtenaw County, Michigan

Notes: usually a 7-petaled (rarely 5-6-8-9) flower (deeply lobed), white, 1 or 2 flowers on a long pedicel; leaves in a single whorl of 4-10 leaves; northern bogs and swamps or mountain tops; spring to early summer

[V Max Brown, 2009]

