

Marsh Marigold

Caltha palustris

Every year, marsh marigold's bright yellow flowers announce 'spring has sprung.' This happens late April into May. The flowers grow from a mound of heart-, round- or kidney-shaped leaves and bloom for about a month. Overall, it attains a height of 18-plus inches.



Marsh Marigold, *Caltha palustris*

Caltha palustris is native to North America and grows in wet/moist areas in woods, in shallow water and along pond and stream edges. They are hardy in Zones 3-7. Marsh marigolds are members of the buttercup family, Ranunculaceae, not to be confused with annual marigolds members of the Aster family.



Marsh marigold and moss grow along the moist edge of the water garden

Marsh marigolds will adapt to the moist edges of a water garden and will be at home in any garden that stays consistently moist. These early spring bloomers grow in sun, part sun and shade but bloom best in sun. The flowers produce both nectar and pollen, attracting many insect visitors, especially the early bees and flies. The plant spreads by rhizomes and reseeding. Foliage may die back in hot summers or if the growing medium dries out but the plant will come back next spring.

Caltha palustris, also known as cowslip, is the most widely grown species and has spawn many popular cultivars in different flower colors and shapes – white, various shades of yellow to greenish and double-petaled.

The marsh marigold is a showy spring bloomer for the moist edges of the awakening water garden.