



Wildflower Exploration

YOUR MISSION

To learn about the native wildflower **MARSH MARIGOLD**.

Plants often have lots of common names. Scientists give each plant one unique scientific name to be sure everyone is talking about the same plant. The scientific name for MARSH MARIGOLD is *Caltha palustris*.

YOUR CLUES

Where to find it (habitat): Marsh Marigold is found in sunny wet areas. You can even find them in wet ditches along roads.

What the flowers look like: The flowers are bright yellow. These yellow flower parts are actually sepals, even though they look like petals and attract insects the way petals do.

What the leaves look like: Leaves are glossy and roundish.

What you might find in spring: You can find the leaves growing in water. The flower buds follow, blooming in April and May. Fruits start to form in May.

Interesting facts: The flowers from this plant look like large buttercups instead of marigold flowers. Each flower has many pistils so in late May look for a whorl of fruits forming in the center of the flower. Marsh Marigold has a perennial life cycle with overwintering roots.

YOUR NOTES

List two facts below that you want to share about your plant.

Fact #1. I learned...

Fact #2. I learned...

Detectives learn by asking questions. Write one question below you would like to discover about your plant.

Something I would like to discover about my plant is _____

You can email your question to our youth educator, Raylene Ludgate at RGL3@cornell.edu

Use a wildflower field guide to answer the question below. In the index of the book, look up your plant under its name Marsh Marigold.

What is another common name listed for this plant? Circle the correct answer:

Cowslip

Marshmallow

Using the picture on our website or in wildflower guide, draw a picture of your plant below:

