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*Oenothera*

*Onagraceae*

*Oenothera* is derived for some authorities from Greek *oinotheras* (with *oinos* possibly meaning ‘wine’ and *thera* perhaps meaning ‘booty’). However this genus name was applied first to an unknown unrelated plant and other authorities wonder whether *Oenothera* might be a corruption of Greek *onotheras* (*onos* meaning ‘ass’ and *thera* or *ther* meaning respectively ‘the chase, hunt, pursuit’ or ‘wild beast’). And, as yet another authority notes, neither would appear to have relevance for *Oenothera*’s present application.

Warning – humans.

Common evening primrose *Oenothera biennis*

The roots should be eaten in small quantities only and are understood to be unsuitable for domestic use. A direct effect on the liver is suspected but as yet has not been proved.

It is possible that the plant could cause headaches, nausea and dermatitis.

It is considered to be unsuitable for epileptic sufferers.