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*Oenothera speciosa*

[Synonyms : *Hartmannia speciosa*, *Oenothera berlandieri*, *Oenothera childsii*, *Oenothera delessertiana*, *Oenothera rosea*, *Oenothera rosea mexicana*, *Oenothera speciosa* var. *childsii*, *Xylopleurum speciosum*]

**SHOWY PRIMROSE** is an invasive perennial. Native from the south-western United States to Mexico it has fragrant, sometimes pink initially, white maturing to deep pink flowers. It is also known as Buttercup, Mexican evening primrose, Pink evening primrose, Pink ladies, *Rooskleurige Nagblom* (Afrikaans), Rose evening primrose, Rosy evening primrose, Showy evening primrose, *Silvernattljus* (Swedish), and White evening primrose.

*Speciosa* is Latin (beautiful, showy, handsome, splendid).

It is said that the name Buttercup refers to the fact that if the flower's fragrance is enjoyed close-up its yellow pollen coats one's nose.

Some authorities have noted that showy primrose was a favourite flower of Lady Bird Johnson (1912-), wife of the 36<sup>th</sup> President of the United States, Lyndon Baines Johnson (1908-1973). Apparently she not only studied them, harvested their seed and grew them but also made more than passing reference to them in some of her writings.

Horticulturists recommend showy primrose as groundcover although this is accompanied by stern warnings that it can be invasive.