Spring Gold Sundrops

Oenothera tetragona 'Spring Gold'



Spring Gold Sundrops flowers
Photo courtesy of Terra Nova Nurseries

Height: 12 inches

Spread: 24 inches

Spacing: 20 inches

Sunlight: ○

Hardiness Zone: 4

Other Names: Oenothera fruticosa, Fruhlingsgold

Ornamental Features

Spring Gold Sundrops has masses of beautiful lightly-scented yellow cup-shaped flowers along the stems from early to mid summer, which emerge from distinctive antique red flower buds, and which are most effective when planted in groupings. Its attractive narrow leaves emerge pink in spring, turning dark green in color with showy white variegation. As an added bonus, the foliage turns a gorgeous burgundy in the fall.

Landscape Attributes

Spring Gold Sundrops is an herbaceous perennial with a ground-hugging habit of growth. Its medium texture blends into the garden, but can always be balanced by a couple of finer or coarser plants for an effective composition.

This plant will require occasional maintenance and upkeep, and is best cleaned up in early spring before it resumes active growth for the season. Gardeners should be aware of the following characteristic(s) that may warrant special consideration;

- Spreading

Spring Gold Sundrops is recommended for the following landscape applications;

- Mass Planting
- Groundcover
- Naturalizing And Woodland Gardens

Planting & Growing

Spring Gold Sundrops will grow to be about 12 inches tall at maturity, with a spread of 24 inches. When grown in masses or used as a bedding plant, individual plants should be spaced approximately 20 inches apart. Its foliage tends to remain dense right to the ground, not requiring facer plants in front. It grows at a medium rate, and under ideal conditions can be expected to live for approximately 15 years. As an herbaceous perennial, this plant will usually die back to the crown each winter, and will regrow from the base each spring. Be careful not to disturb the crown in late winter when it may not be readily seen!

This plant should only be grown in full sunlight. It prefers dry to average moisture levels with very well-drained soil, and will often die in standing water. It is considered to be drought-tolerant, and thus makes an ideal choice for a low-water garden or xeriscape application. It is not particular as to soil pH, but grows best in sandy soils. It is somewhat tolerant of urban pollution. This is a selection of a native North American species. It can be propagated by division; however, as a cultivated variety, be aware that it may be subject to certain restrictions or prohibitions on propagation.