

# marsh marigold

*Caltha palustris*

## FEATURES

The dark green leaves of marsh marigold are shiny. This member of the buttercup family has large, hollow stems. The plant may reach two feet in height. It completes its life cycle by mid-summer and will retain leaves longer if growing in moist soil. There are five to nine yellow sepals per flower. The flowers are large, up to one and one-half inches in diameter. The leaves are heart- or kidney-shaped.

## BEHAVIORS

Marsh marigold grows naturally in the northern two-thirds of Illinois, particularly in wet areas and moist woodlands. Its large yellow flowers are among the earliest wildflower blossoms opening in spring. It blooms from April through June.

## TAXONOMY

Kingdom: Plantae  
Division: Magnoliophyta  
Class: Magnoliopsida  
Order: Ranunculales  
Family: Ranunculaceae

## ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

## ILLINOIS RANGE





### **Aquatic Habitats**

wet prairies and fens

### **Woodland Habitats**

none

### **Prairie and Edge Habitats**

none