

NYCTAGINACEAE – FOUR-O’CLOCK FAMILY

Plant: mostly herbs, sometimes woody, shrubs and trees

Stem:

Root: sometimes fleshy

Leaves: simple, entire or wavy, mostly opposite, rarely alternate; no stipules

Flowers: perfect or rarely imperfect; flower held in a 2-5, calyx-like involucre (bracts) that may be green or colored; 5 sepals, fused and often funnel-shaped – often mistaken for petals; no petals; 5 stamens or rarely 1-3 or many; ovary superior, 1 carpel

Fruit: small inflated pod (dried calyx), holding the seeds

Other: most abundant in the tropics; four-o’clocks commonly cultivated; Dicotyledons Group

Genera: 30+ genera; locally *Mirabilis* (umbrella-wort)

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Pale Umbrella-Wort [White Four-O-Clock]; *Mirabilis albida* (Walter) Heimerl

Heart-Leaved Umbrella-Wort [Four-O-Clock]; *Oxybaphus nyctagineus* (Michx.) MacM.

Pale Umbrella-Wort [White Four-O-Clock]



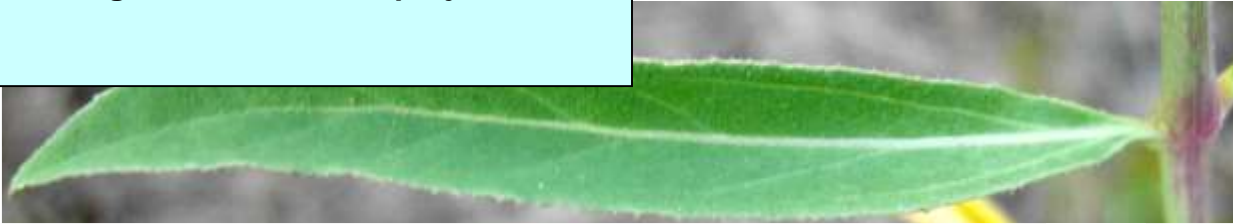
Mirabilis albida (Walter) Heimerl

Nyctaginaceae (Four-O'Clock Family)

Wilson's Creek National Battlefield, Greene County,
Missouri

Notes: calyx flower (no petals), light pink, lobed, in green
bract cup, cup persistent in fruit; leaves narrow
lanceolate, length less than 10-12X width; stem fine
hairy; angles of fruit roughened with small projections;
late spring to fall

[V Max Brown, 2010]



Heart-Leaved Umbrella-Wort

[Four-O-Clock]

Oxybaphus nyctagineus (Michx.) MacM.

Nyctaginaceae (Four-O'Clock Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: calyx flower (no petals), pink to purple, lobed, in green bract cup, cup persistent in fruit; leaves opposite, ovate to cordate, all but upper leaves stalked (1+ cm); mostly in sandy soils; late spring to early fall

[V Max Brown, 2005]

