**Ludwigia octovalvis** (N.J. von Jacquin) P.H. Raven  
**Shrubby Water Primrose**  
(*Oenothera octovalvis, Jussiaea angustifolia, Jussiaea pubescens, Jussiaea octovalvis, Jussiaea suffruticosa*)

- *Ludwigia octovalvis* is a member of the family *Onagraceae* known by numerous local names including Clavelillo, Hierba De Santa Cruz, Jamaican Loosestrife, Mexican Primrose-Willow, Narrowleaf Water Primrose, Sanangujo, Seedbox, Sulfatillo, Water Primrose, Wild Cove, or Willow Primrose; this species can range in size from a woody shrub up to 6’ tall to herbaceous perennial that is only 2’ or 3’ tall with a semi-woody base depending upon the climate and genotype as its range includes parts of about every continent except Antarctica; it is found regionally in the warmer portions of the Southeastern USA, through South Texas and Northern Mexico; with proper provenance plants can be grown in USDA zones 8 (7b) to 13.

- This deciduous, semi-evergreen, to evergreen shrubs is highly variable as the wide native range might suggest with the alternate, simple, linear to narrowly ovate leaves extending in size from ½” to 4½” long and varying from nearly glabrous to hairy pubescent; long arching stems successively branch to form an irregular rounded mound; the combination of bright green to yellowish green leaves, red to reddish tinged stems, red tinged hypathium and bright lemon yellow flowers is quite pleasing; flowers are have a long 2” to 4” fused peg-shaped hypathium which flares into four broad obcordate showy petals with a tiny white spot at the interior base of the petals; the petals form a flower 1” to 2” in diameter; flowering is year-round in the tropics, late spring or early summer to fall where plants function as herbaceous perennials; flower production is seldom overwhelming, but it occurs rather continuously adding a long season of interest to the plant; the fruit is an eight valved cylindrical capsule vaguely resembling a clove.

- Although considered to be a weed in rice fields and shallow waterways, *L. octovalvis* can be used in wet bogy areas or shallow water as an ornamental; care should be taken to contain the spread of root suckers and seedlings, but *L. octovalvis* does offer a long season of color for sunny wet areas which are often problematic and have relatively few available solutions; the genus name honors the 18th century German botany professor Christian Gottlieb Ludwig, while the specific epithet derives from the Latin words for eight and a valve or door in reference to the fruit.

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