Have you seen this invasive plant?

Lesser Celandine (Ranunculus ficaria) is an escaped European garden plant that has spread rapidly in a few areas in SE Wisconsin, where it eliminates wildflowers and alters forests.

We need your help to keep it from spreading further.

Lesser Celandine

Ranunculus ficaria (Ficaria verna)

Other common names:
fig buttercup, small celandine, lesser crowfoot, buttercup

This plant is regulated under WI Chapter NR 40 as a Prohibited Invasive Species

Counties in WI where lesser celandine has been reported*

Prohibited invasive species are not currently found in Wisconsin or exist in small, isolated stands. In an effort to protect our ecosystems and prevent the spread of these species, it is illegal to possess, transport, transfer, or otherwise introduce those plants classified as prohibited invasive species. ***Control is required for this plant.***
*as of May 2017

You can help by controlling this plant on your property if it is present, and encouraging your neighbors to do the same!

Yellow flowers in early spring, about 1" diameter with 7-12 petals

Smooth green kidney- to heart-shaped leaves in basal clusters

Reproductive structures called bulbils develop on stems and drop off as the top of the plant dies back

Lesser celandine forms a thick carpet of continuous growth, crowding out other plants, as seen in this invasion along the Milwaukee River.

Why this plant is a problem:

- Eliminates wildflowers and native plants in woodlands
- Easily reproduces and spreads into new areas via bulbils, tubers, or seeds
- Can take over the entire forest floor. In other states, this plant covers hundreds of acres of what previously had been high quality forest preserves and parks
- After the tops die back, bare soil remains, leading to erosion
- Eroded soil entering waterbodies degrades water quality
- Toxic to animals and humans if ingested

Where to look for lesser celandine:

- Thrives in seasonally wet or moist soils and shade, but can be found in dry soil and full sun
- Typically spreads along streams and floodplains, but also into upland forests
- Can also be found in lawns, gardens, lakeshores, and disturbed areas

How to identify lesser celandine:

- Non-native perennial early spring flower
- Smooth, glossy kidney- to heart-shaped leaves in clusters
- Bright yellow flowers about 1" diameter with 7-12 petals
- Very early spring growth. Leaves emerge in March, flowers in April and May
- After flowering, whitish bulbils develop on stems, fall off, and start new plants
- Below-ground thick, finger-like tubers keep the plant alive summer through winter
- Above-ground portion of plant dies back after flowering, disappearing by the end of June

Look-alikes:

- Lesser celandine resembles the native wetland plant, marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*), found in the eastern US, including WI
- Marsh marigold flowers have 5-6 "petals" (actually sepals), while lesser celandine typically has 8 petals
- Marsh marigold does not produce bulbils or tubers
- Lesser celandine also resembles greater celandine (*Cheladonium majus*), which has completely different leaves but similar flowers

Please see the reverse side of this flyer for more information on reporting and controlling this invasive plant.

For infestations in the Lake Geneva area, please contact:
Geneva Lake Conservancy - *(262) 275-5700*

Geneva Lake Conservancy

SEWISC

Geneva Lake Environmental Agency

dnr.wi.gov

Monitoring and Control of Lesser Celandine

In order to limit the spread of this highly invasive plant, everyone's help is needed.
Look for this plant in spring when it is in flower.

Please report its location to Invasive.Species@wi.gov.
Note - Landowners are responsible for controlling this plant.

Timing of Control:

Early spring is the best time to do manual or herbicide control work. By treating with herbicides early, before the celandine blooms, you are less likely to damage native wildflowers. Spraying is most effective in the early flowering stage but it will also kill mature plants after flowering. Note: the tops of the plants will start dying back by early June. Spraying must be done when the lesser celandine leaves are still green to get the herbicide into the roots.

Herbicide treatments:

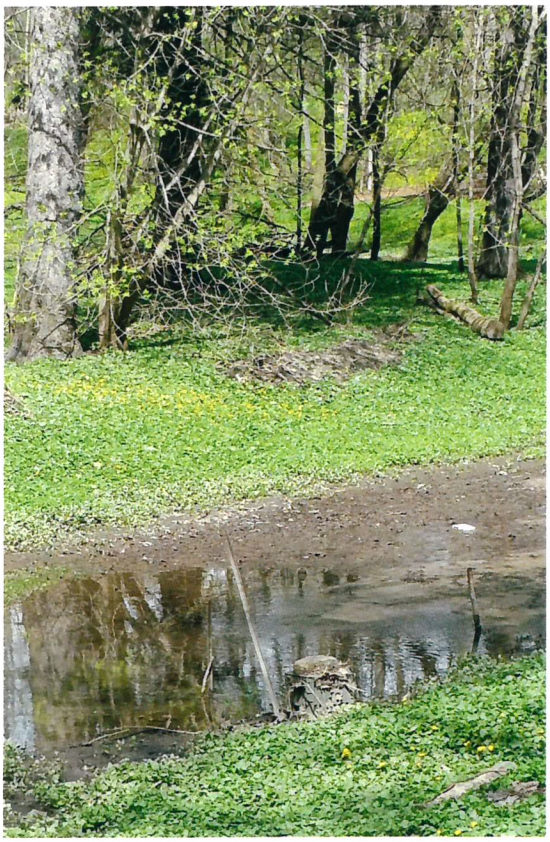
- The purpose of applying herbicide is to kill the top before it produces seed and bulbils, and to have the herbicide move to the roots and kill the tubers. Broad spectrum systemic foliar herbicides, such as glyphosate (such as Round-Up®) can be effective. Some broad-leaf specific herbicides containing imazapyr are also effective.
- For areas near streams, lake shores or that remain moist at least 2 days after a rain, treatments must be done by certified and licensed aquatic pesticide applicators. They must use a foliar herbicide approved for use near water, such as glyphosate isopropylamine salt (e.g. Rodeo®), mixed with water and a non-ionic surfactant (e.g. Cide Kick® Surfactant). These areas will also require an NR 107 Chemical treatment permit from WDNR. These areas will also require an NR 107 Chemical treatment permit from WDNR.

Always read the entire pesticide label carefully, follow all mixing and application instructions, and take appropiate safety precautions. Make sure you are familiar with and adhere to any local or state pesticide use requirements, restrictions, or recommendations.

Manual control:

- Small infestations of individual plants can be hand-dug, taking care to remove all bulbils and tubers.
- Bag all plant material, remove from site and use landfill disposal or incinerator.
- Do NOT compost or send to local yard waste facilities as it can spread in the compost.

Note: Soil disturbances invite the introduction of other invasive species, so manual removal is best used for small infestations.



Previous experiences suggest that it can take several years or more of ongoing control efforts to eliminate lesser celandine, and success depends on how well neighbors cooperate in controlling the plant on their properties.

For questions on identification and control, contact:

Walworth County:

Geneva Lake Conservancy
(262) 275-5700
glc@genevalakeconservancy.org

Geneva Lake Environmental Agency
(262) 245-4532
glea@genevaonline.com

Milwaukee, Racine, and Kenosha Counties -

Jill Hapner, South East Wisconsin Invasive Species Consortium -
jill.hapner@sewisc.org

Craig Helker, WDNR
(262) 884-2357
craig.helker@wisconsin.gov
9531 Rayne Road, Suite 4
Sturtevant, WI 53177

Please report any infestations to Invasive.Species@wi.gov

SEWISC

Geneva Lake Conservancy

Geneva Lake Environmental Agency
Village of Fontana • City of Lake Geneva • Town of Linn
Town of Walworth • Village of Williams Bay

WISCONSIN DEPT. OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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This publication is made possible by a grant form the U.S. Forest Service. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

PUB-NH-943-2017