

(revision date:10/17/2019)

Weeds: Lesser celandine(*Ficaria verna*)

family: *Ranunculaceae*

cycle *Perennial*

plant type: *Broadleaf*

Use Integrated Pest Management (IPM) for successful plant problem management.

Biology

Lesser celandine is a noxious weed. It is highly variable and has club-shaped, tuberous roots. The weed grows as a mounded rosette with basal and stem leaves and can be 16 inches tall. The leaves are medium to dark green, oblong, heart or triangular in shape and often with a paler underside. The leaf edges can be smooth or have rounded teeth. The flowers are typically yellow with 7-13 petals, about an inch in diameter, and solitary on stem tips. Lesser celandine can reproduce by movement of the tuberous roots or by the bulbils that form in leaf axils. **SPECIAL INFORMATION:** Lesser celandine can be confused with the native yellow marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*). The yellow marsh marigold does not have tuberous roots, produce bulbils, and has only petal-like sepals.

Habitat

Lesser celandine can grow in woodlands, wetlands, along streambanks, in landscaped areas, and along roadsides.

Management Options

Non-Chemical Management

- ~ Prevent its introduction. Do not plant lesser celandine or its cultivars.
- ~ Hand dig making certain to remove all plant parts. Bag and dispose of plant parts. Do not compost.
- ~ Do not mow as it can spread the bulbils and seeds.
- ~ Sheet mulch with a thick layer of wood chips (6 inches) to smother plants

Select non-chemical management options as your first choice!

Chemical Management

IMPORTANT: Visit Home and Garden Fact Sheets for more information on using pesticides

Apply a systemic herbicide in late winter to spring to avoid damaging native herbaceous plants.

Landscape Areas

- glyphosate

Turf Areas

Bare Ground Areas

- glyphosate