

Keep an eye out Lesser Celandine is on the loose!



How to Identify

Lesser celandine is a perennial, herbaceous plant in the buttercup family. Leaves are shiny, dark green, and kidney-shaped. Stalked leaves may appear as early as January. Glossy, butter-yellow flowers appear in March and April supported on delicate stalks above the leaves. Above-ground portions of lesser celandine die back by early June. When in bloom, large infestations of lesser celandine appear as a green carpet with yellow dots, spread across the forest floor. Celandine reproduces primarily through bulblets and underground tubers. Tiny white bulblets are attached to leafstalks and are easily dislodged from the plant. A mass of small, gray, fingerlike tuberous roots underlies each plant. Bulblets and tubers are easily carried downstream during flood events and may be unearthed and scattered by the digging activities of some animals.

How to Remove



Chemical Method: Lesser celandine can be effectively controlled using a 1-2% solution of glyphosate (e.g., Roundup). Use a wetland-approved concentration of glyphosate (e.g., Rodeo) near streams. Apply herbicide in March when temperatures are 40°F or warmer. Follow label instructions and state requirements. (Read and follow all herbicide labels carefully before use).

Manual Method: For small infestations, lesser celandine dug up using a hand trowel or shovel. It is very important to remove **all bulblets and tubers**. When conducting mechanical removal, care should be taken to minimize soil disturbance as much as possible. For this reason, mechanical control may be inappropriate for large infestations in high quality natural areas. Cutting alone will often not control the problem; many times it will encourage new growth.

Remember: When removing, be careful not to remove or destroy desirable species. Don't confuse with native marsh Marigold (*Caltha palustris*), a desirable wetland plant that also occurs in the eastern U.S. Marsh Marigold also has glossy, rounded or kidney-shaped leaves and flowers, but its stalks are 8 inches or more in height and consist of 5-9 deep-yellow petals. Additionally, Marsh Marigold does not produce tubers or bulblets, nor does it form a continuous carpet of growth.

Replant Native Options: Wild Ginger, Dutchman's Breeches, Squirrel-corn, Cutleaf Toothwort, Twinleaf, and Bloodroot.