

# LESSER CELANDINE

*Ficaria verna* Huds.

Restricted

## Common Names

Fig Buttercup, Pilewort

## Life Cycle

Herbaceous perennial

## Native Range

Eurasia

## Look-a-Likes

[Marsh Marigold \(pg 87\)](#)

## Habitat

Thrives in forest floodplains, wetlands, riparian areas, upland areas and disturbed areas such as lawns.

## Means of Spread

Spreads both vegetatively and by seed, though most spread is through vegetative means. Grows tubers and bulbules which break from the plant easily. Both vegetative forms and seeds can be spread with seasonal flooding.

## Toxicity

Fresh leaves contain saponins, tannins, ascorbate, protoanemonin, and anemonin. Poisonous if ingested raw by human or grazing animals.



## Identification

**Plant** - Herbaceous, perennial, low-growing plant that blooms early in the spring and carpets the understory before entering dormancy and dying back to the ground.

**Leaves** - Dark green with distinct veining, heart shaped, cordate, and have a slightly pointed tip. Can grow up to 1½ inches in diameter and have a glossy appearance.

**Flower** - 5 to 12 petals that are highly glossy and bright yellow. Three green sepals are found on the underside of the flower. One flower develops on each stalk and flowering occurs soon after snow melts.

**Bloom Time** - March to early May

**Seed and Fruit** - Bulbules form at leaf intersections with the stem. Fruit is clustered, small and tubular. Fruit falls off the plant before maturity and requires further maturation time.

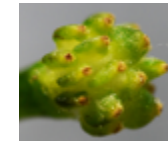
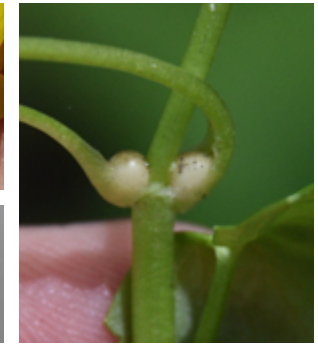
**Root** - Aggressive underground tubers.



## Management

**Mechanical** - Stems easily break from tubers making mechanical control difficult.

**Chemical** - Above ground vegetation dies after flowering, so herbicide must be applied while a rosette or flowering.



## Treatment Timing



## Lesser Celandine

Effective herbicide formulations: glyphosate, metsulfuron.