



LESSER CELANDINE, FIG BUTTERCUP

Ranunculus ficaria
Origin: Eurasia

INVASIVE RANKING, NYS

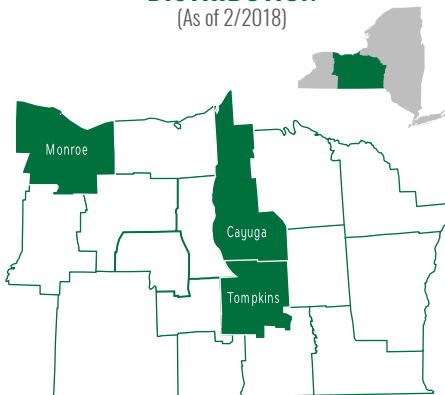
Very High

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

Chemical
Physical
Prevention

DISTRIBUTION

(As of 2/2018)



www.fingerlakesinvasives.org

Lesser celandine is an invasive spring ephemeral that grows in a dense rosette. The shiny, dark green leaves are 4-9 cm wide, kidney or heart-shaped, and smooth with wavy edges. Leaf stalks are U-shaped in cross section. Flowers are eight petaled and bright yellow in color. Plants emerge early in the growing season, bloom late-April to mid-May, and die back by summer. They can reproduce vegetatively by bulbils, which are cream colored and hang from leaf stalks, making them easily dislodged if disturbed. Lesser celandine also has small, gray, fingerlike tuberous roots that overwinter and can create new plants.

HABITAT

Lesser celandine typically grows along stream banks, forested floodplains, and other wetlands.

THREAT

Lesser celandine can outcompete and displace native spring-flowering or short-lived plants. It emerges earlier in the spring than most native species, giving it a competitive advantage. Once established, it spreads rapidly, forming a solid green blanket across the ground making it difficult for important pollen and nectar providing native plants to grow.

MANAGEMENT

Prevention through education and awareness is an important management strategy to impede the spread of this invasive species. Hiking boots and other outdoor gear should be cleaned between uses at different sites. Small infestations may be pulled by hand or dug up using a shovel. However, entire plants and as many tubers as possible must be removed in order to prevent the spread of this invasive species. Chemical control using herbicides is also an option but should be done as early as possible to avoid impact to native plant species.

REFERENCE - Swearingen, J., C. Barger. 2016 Invasive Plant Atlas of the United States. University of Georgia Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health. <http://www.invasiveplantatlas.org/>
http://www.nyis.info/index.php?action=invasive_detail&id=71

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