

## Lesser celandine

### *Ficaria verna*

#### Description

Lesser celandine are common garden plants.

#### Habit

Herbaceous ephemeral perennial growing from tuberous roots; 10-30 cm (4-12 in) tall; may form a continuous carpet. Emerges well before native ephemerals.

#### Leaves

Kidney or heart-shaped; shiny, dark green in color; formed in a basal rosette, long stalked, blunt, often with bulblets in the axils; lower leaves opposite.

#### Stems

Erect; cream bulblets produced in stem axils.

#### Flowers

Bright yellow with a slightly darker center on





single stalks above leaves; usually 8 petals but may have up to 12; 1 in wide; 3-4 green sepals, narrowly oblong with wider tips; blooms March to April.

### **Fruits and Seeds**

Dry, hairy seeds held in round heads.

### **Habitat**

Native to Europe. Found in floodplain forests, wet meadows, old fields and roadsides.

### **Reproduction**

Primarily by bulblets and finger-like tubers, tubers may also be moved by floodwaters, animals or in soils.

### **Similar**

Marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*), a native relative, Wood / Celandine Poppy (*Stylophorum diphyllum*), and Greater celandine (*Chelidonium majus*).

### **Monitoring and Rapid Response**

Hand-pulling or dig up for small infestations; effectively controlled using any of the several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate.

### **Credits**

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