

Creeping buttercup

Ranunculus repens

Description

The plant is moderately toxic and was once used medicinally as an analgesic and rubefacient.

Habit

Low growing, stoloniferous, grows 0.3 m (1 ft) by 1 m (3 ft 3 in) at a fast rate.

Leaves

Basal, dark green in color, pale patches, divided into three toothed leaflets, somewhat hairy, shallowly to deeply lobed.

Stems

Prostrate running stems; 0.3 m (1 ft) by 1 m (3 ft 3 in); finely hairy.

Flowers

Bright yellow, 5-10 petals, glossy, hermaphrodite, 2-3 cm in diameter.

Fruits and Seeds

Cluster of achenes 2.5-4 mm long, produces 20-150 seeds, viable for 20 years and up to 80 if





not disturbed.

Habitat

Native to Europe. Prefers moist conditions; found in pastures, farmlands, natural wetlands, city gardens, lawns, woodland trails.

Reproduction

By seed and vegetatively by long branching stolons that root at the nodes.

Similar

Virginia springbeauty (*Claytonia virginica*) and other species of Buttercup (*Ranunculus* spp.).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Dig out with a sharp trowel removing all the runners and roots (Fall to Spring); systemic herbicides like glyphosate.

Credits

The information provided in this factsheet was gathered from the King County Noxious Weed Control Program and the USDA PLANTS Database. Individual species images that appear with a number in a black box are courtesy of the Bugwood.org network (<http://www.invasive.org>). Individual photo author credits may not be included due to the small display size of the images and subsequent difficulty of reading the provided text. All other images appear courtesy of Google (<http://images.google.com>).