

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.

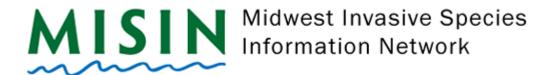
Flowers

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 at the runners and roots (Fall to Spring); systemic herbicides like glyphosate.

Credits

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