

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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