

Floating marsh pennywort

Hydrocotyle ranunculoides

Description

Native to North America but displays many invasive characteristics.

Habit

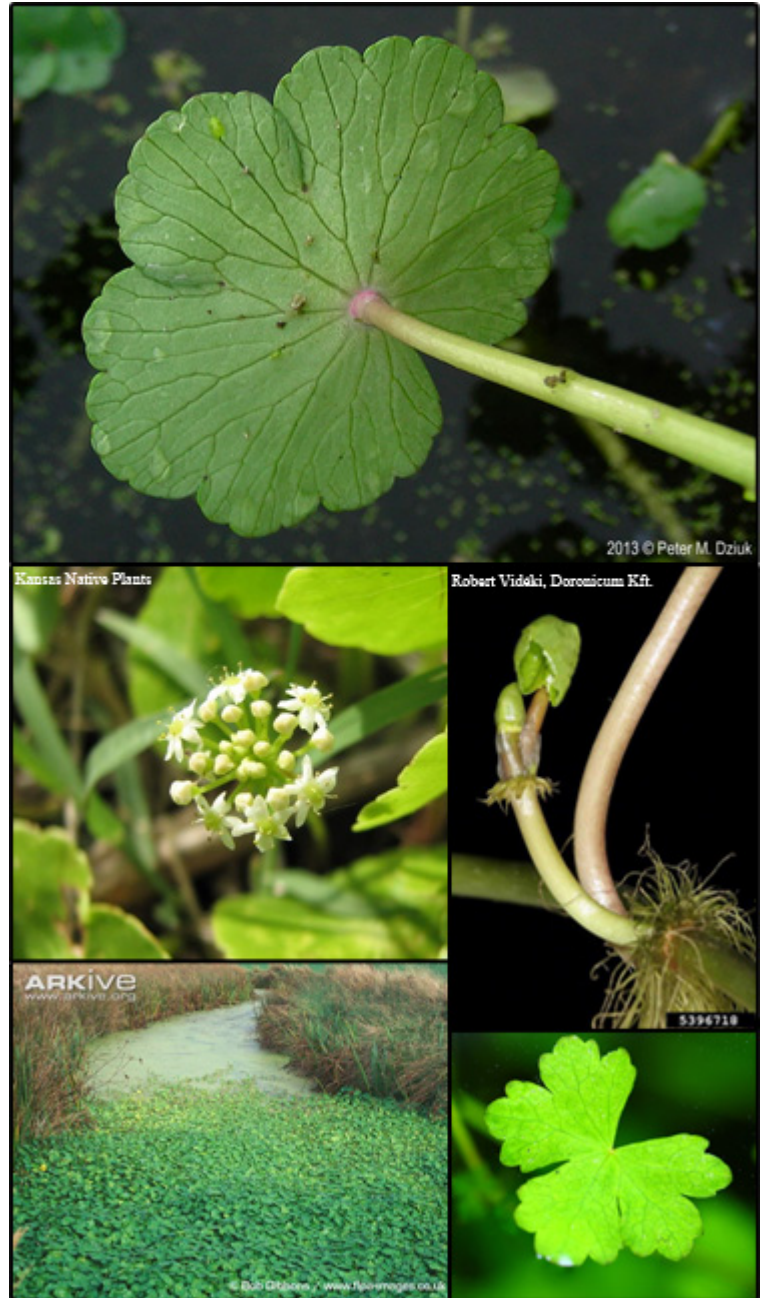
Extremely fast growing floating aquatic plant, can grow up to 20 cm per day and 15 m from the bank in a single season and can double its biomass in 3-7 days.

Leaves

2-6 cm in diameter, rounded or wider than long, with 3-7 lobes. Lobe divisions extend to about mid-leaf. Leaf edges are smooth to slightly scalloped. Slender stalks 5-35 cm long are attached to the leaf edge.

Stems

Pale green to brownish white, round in a cross



section and glabrous; they are rather thick and fleshy and can float on water.

Flowers

Very small creamy yellow flowers (usually 9) approximately 3 mm in diameter on a short umbel below the leaf canopy.

Fruits and Seeds

The fruit is 1-3 mm long, elliptic to round, and flattened with faint ribs. It is divided into 2 halves, each with a tiny stalk.

Habitat

Native to North and South America. Found in freshwater lakes, reservoirs, ponds, marshes and slow-flowing streams and rivers.

Reproduction

Vegetatively from fibrous roots.

Similar

May be confused with other Hydrocotyle or Ranunculus species.

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Hand pull or remove by machine for small infestations. Physical removal should be completed before flowering and seed set. Registered aquatic herbicides can provide some control in small scale applications.

Credits

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