

Photos: Elaine Stewart, Metro

## Control Methods

Attempting to control water primrose without the aid of a licensed herbicide applicator is not recommended. Please contact your local weed program in either Oregon ([www.Oregon.gov/ODA/Programs/Weeds/Pages/CountyWeedPrograms.aspx](http://www.Oregon.gov/ODA/Programs/Weeds/Pages/CountyWeedPrograms.aspx)) or Washington ([www.NWCB.wa.gov/Find-Your-County-Weed-Boards](http://www.NWCB.wa.gov/Find-Your-County-Weed-Boards)) for more information about how to control this invasive weed.



The mission of the 4-County Cooperative Weed Management Area, comprising Clackamas, Clark, Multnomah, and Washington Counties, is to create and support collaborative weed management in the greater Portland area. For more details on our collaborative efforts in management, mapping, and outreach, please visit our website:

[www.4CountyCWMA.org](http://www.4CountyCWMA.org)



## WATER PRIMROSE

(*Ludwigia hexapetala*)  
(*Ludwigia peploides*)

4-County CWMA Class A  
Oregon Class B  
Washington Class B

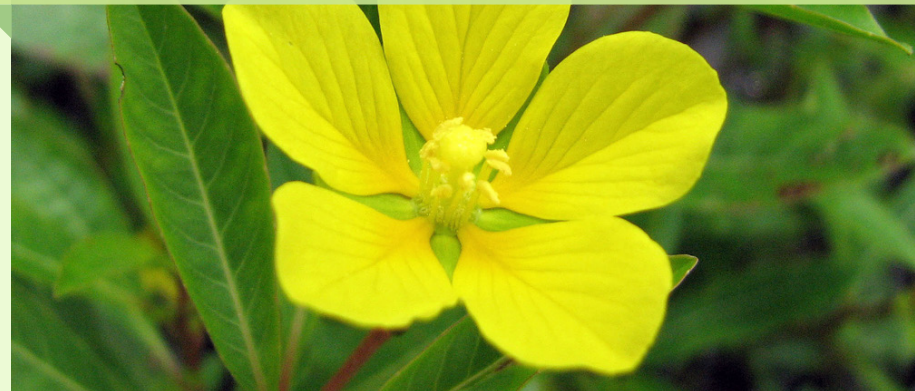


Photo: Rob Routledge, Sault College, Bugwood.org

## Overview

Several species and subspecies of non-native water primrose, or *Ludwigia*, are moving through the lower Willamette Valley. Non-native water primroses choke slow-moving waterways and surrounding streambanks by sending large numbers of roots deep into soil next to bodies of water. Once established, *Ludwigia* grows floating strands which can stretch to 20 feet, slowing water flow and clogging canals. The persistent roots, stems and leaves break off and develop into new infestations. Colonization by seed is less common.

## How to Identify

*Ludwigia* species are difficult to tell apart and some can only be differentiated in the laboratory. *Ludwigia hexapetala* and *Ludwigia peploides* are both known to be found within the four counties of the CWMA. Both have bright yellow flowers up to 1" in diameter and stems have a red tinge, especially in late summer. Alternate leaves are oblong and waxy with pronounced veins and smooth edges. Most parts of the plant are found above water, unlike many other aquatic species.

## Look-alikes

*Ludwigia hexapetala* and *Ludwigia peploides* bear a strong resemblance to each other. Both are considered invasive. There is also a native water primrose, *Ludwigia palustris*, which has **opposite leaves and small, pale, greenish flowers**.

## Submit your report today!

Water primrose is a top priority species within the 4-County CWMA boundary. Please report at all sightings at [OregonInvasivesHotline.org](http://OregonInvasivesHotline.org) or call 866-INVADER in Oregon or [www.InvasiveSpecies.wa.gov/Sighting\\_Form.shtml](http://www.InvasiveSpecies.wa.gov/Sighting_Form.shtml) in Washington.