



Ranunculus ficaria L.
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<http://www.beenthere-donethat.org.uk/tiptree12big.html>

Lesser celandine *Ranunculus ficaria*

AKA: Fig Buttercup, Pilewort

Description: Lesser celandine is a perennial herbaceous member of the buttercup family, with shiny dark green leaves arranged in a low-growing, loose rosette. Most of its life is spent underground in the form of small fingerlike tubers. The stalked, kidney or heart-shaped, leaves begin to appear in winter. The plant sprouts as early as mid-January in the Mid-Atlantic, well ahead of the many spring-flowering native species. Above ground portions of lesser celandine usually die back by early June. Single, glossy, yellow flowers appear in March and April, supported on delicate stalks above the leaves. When in bloom, large infestations of lesser celandine appear as a wall-to-wall green carpet with yellow polka dots,

Control Methods:

1. Hand pulling

For smaller infestations, hand pulling can be effective. When pulling lesser celandine make sure to remove all of the underground tubers. Even a small piece of the tuber can grow into a new plant. Since lesser celandine is only above the ground for a short period of time, it may be necessary to mark infestations if the pulling is going to be done after the top of the plant has died off.

2. Foliar spraying

This method works well for areas where hand pulling is impractical. Lesser celandine has a short period above ground so when spraying timing is crucial. It is best to spray lesser celandine as soon as it appears above ground in January. This will also limit the effect on native wild flowers since most native species will not have emerged. Glyphosate (Roundup for uplands and Rodeo for wetlands) is the preferred chemical treatment. A 0.5% mixture of glyphosate should be sufficient to kill lesser celandine. Glyphosate can be applied in the winter as long as the temperature is above 40 degrees Fahrenheit. Keep the chemical from touching any native plants or sensitive trees. Be sure to follow all manufacturers' recommendations