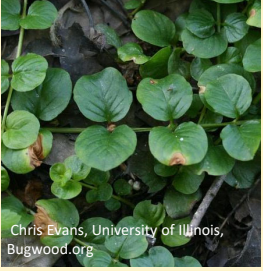


Creeping Jenny



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What Do We Know?

Creeping jenny (*Lysimachia nummularia*) is an herbaceous perennial with a low growing, spreading growth form. It is part of the Primrose Family (Primulaceae) family and also goes by the common name of moneywort.

Creeping jenny is native to Eurasia and was introduced to North America prior to 1900 as an ornamental plant. This species is still used as a landscape ground cover. The primary ecological damage caused by creeping jenny occurs when the dense mats out compete native plants for resources. Large populations of creeping jenny can block small drainage structures and springs.

It has smooth stems that can run along the ground for more than a foot before rooting in the ground at the stem nodes. Leaves are round, opposite, and close to the stem. Plants can be 2-4 inches tall and found in a variety of habitats. It thrives in wet areas such as swamps, stream banks, wet meadows, floodplains, ditches, and roadsides. Disturbed areas are especially vulnerable to invasion from this species.

Through much of the Mid-Atlantic, creeping jenny is green for most of the year. This species tolerates a broad-spectrum light exposure, from full sun to part shade. Small yellow cup-like flowers with five petals emerge in June and July. Creeping jenny reproduces vegetatively by rooting at stem nodes or from fragments. It also reproduces through seeds.

Because the plant is low growing, mowing is ineffective. The best form of mechanical control is hand pulling. As much of the plant should be removed, if possible, to prevent re-sprouting. Herbicides containing glyphosate are effective in controlling creeping jenny. Care should be taken to select aquatic safe herbicide formulations if plants are in or very close to water. There are currently no biological control options for this species. The public can help limit the spread of creeping jenny by not purchasing this species. It is important not to use it as an ornamental ground cover as it can quickly spread and overtake an area.

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National Invasive Species Awareness Week - 2023

Quick Facts

- Herbaceous perennial
- Creeping ground cover
- Semi-evergreen in the mid-Atlantic
- Grows in a broad range of light and moisture levels
- Especially abundant in wet areas
- Hand pulling or herbicide application most effective control methods

