

CREeping WATER PRIMROSE



Department of
Environmental
Conservation

Ludwigia peploides

What is creeping water primrose?

Creeping water primrose is a perennial invasive wetland plant that is native to parts of South America, as well as the southern and central regions of North America. It grows aggressively, creating dense, sprawling mats on the water's surface and shore that crowd out native plants in waterbodies. Creeping water primrose was likely introduced intentionally as a water garden plant, but then escaped cultivation.

Identification

The bright yellow, five-petaled flowers bloom for several months throughout late spring to early fall. Leaves are long and narrow, about 3.5 inches when mature, and grow in clusters on alternate branching stems. The stems can grow up to 2 meters in length and are usually reddish and hollow. Creeping water primrose looks similar to the non-invasive evening primrose that grows on land.



Creeping water primrose flowers are bright yellow and bloom in late spring.
Graves Lovell, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bugwood.org

Where is creeping water primrose located in New York State?

It is found primarily in slow-moving streams and rivers, still waterbodies, and muddy streambanks. In New York, its presence has been confirmed in Nassau and Suffolk Counties.

How does creeping water primrose spread?

It can spread easily when fragments and stem clippings of the plant are moved on boats, equipment, and clothing. Even small fragments can sprout and establish an infestation in a new waterbody.

What are the impacts of creeping water primrose?

- Grows in dense mats, which reduce light and oxygen availability in water and may result in the death of native fish
- Shades out native wetland plant species, making it difficult for native plants to grow, and decreasing the plant diversity in an area
- Reduces the amount of suitable habitat for native wildlife
- Hinders recreational opportunities, such as boating, fishing, and swimming, because of the dense, tangled mats it creates
- Impairs water quality by trapping flowing soil particles and slowing the movement of water
- Can survive on land if water levels drop, and, once there, it can crowd out native plants



The plant can survive on land when water levels drop.
Graves Lovell, Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bugwood.org

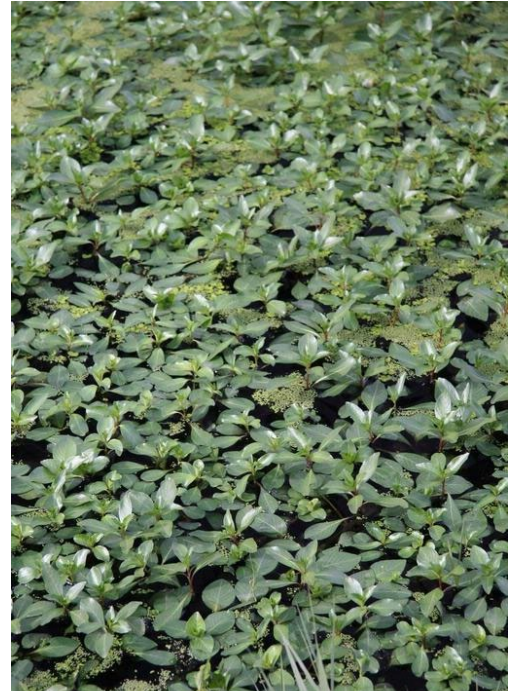
What are the tools for management?

The best method for managing creeping water primrose is preventing its spread from one body of water to the next. However, once a waterway is infested, management can be successful depending on the size and location of the infestation. Options include: using herbicides, physically removing plants, or a combination of those methods. It is critical to remove all traces of the plants to prevent reestablishment.

Management methods should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for each infestation. For help with selecting the best management for your situation, contact your local Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) (<https://www.dec.ny.gov/animals/47433.html>).

What can I do?

- Learn how to identify creeping water primrose.
- Choose native or non-invasive plants for your aquatic garden.
- Clean, drain, and dry your watercraft and equipment thoroughly before visiting other water bodies.
 - Inspect and remove debris and mud from boats, trailers, and equipment before and after each use.
 - Dispose of all debris in trash cans or above the waterline on dry land.
 - Drain all water holding compartments, including live wells, bait wells, and bilge areas. If possible, disinfect with hot water (140°F) for at least 30 seconds.
 - Dry boats, trailers and all equipment before use in another waterbody. A minimum of 5-7 days drying time in dry, warm conditions is recommended.
- Avoid weed beds when boating.
- Dispose of aquarium waste or specimens in the trash. Do not dump them in drainage ditches, sewers, or any water bodies.
- If you think you have found creeping water primrose, please take several photos of an individual plant on a white background with an object for scale, collect the GPS coordinates for the location where you found it, and contact isinfo@dec.ny.gov or your local Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management (PRISM) by visiting www.nyis.info.
- Once the plant is identified, submit a report to iMapInvasives at www.NYiMapInvasives.org.



Creeping water primrose forms dense mats, displacing native plants.
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CONTACT INFORMATION

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