

# Fig Buttercup (*Ficaria verna*)

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## Identification:

This plant is an herbaceous perennial that is short in height, growing up to 12 inches. The basal leaves, around the base of the stem, are dark green in color with a shiny appearance. The shape of the basal leaves are kidney to heart shaped and can vary greatly in size. Bright yellow, eight-petaled flowers appear on stalks above the leaves in March and April. Flowers can be up to 3 inches in size. The fruit is a pubescent achenes, a hairy, dry, one-seeded fruit that is attached to the husk by a stalk. This allows for the seed to be easily released from the husk. It can also reproduce with bulblets and tubers.



Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, [Invasivespeciesinfo.gov](http://Invasivespeciesinfo.gov)

## Habitat and Spread:

*Ficaria verna* prefers moist, sandy soils in forested floodplains, along streams and river banks, and in other wetland areas throughout the East, Midwest, and Pacific Northwest regions of the US. It will also invade drier habitats like gardens and semi-urban to urban areas. It is a spring ephemeral, lasting for a short time. It creates dense mats that exclude other vegetation, including native forest spring ephemerals. It creates competition for resources such as light and space. This plant is currently sold and planted as an ornamental.



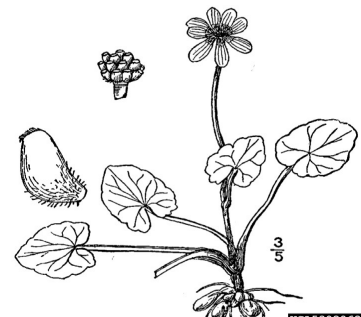
Janie Marlow, [NameThatPlant.net](http://NameThatPlant.net), [Bugwood.org](http://Bugwood.org)

## Management Techniques:

Manual removal is the best practice for small infestations but care needs to be taken to removal all tubers from the soil. Larger infestations can be managed with glyphosate based herbicides. Herbicides are most effective when applied early in the season. If an herbicide is used, caution should be taken to avoid native species.

## Native Range and Original Introduction:

Native to Europe, Asia, and Northern Africa, it was introduced as an ornamental plant in the U.S. in the 1860's.



Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, [Bugwood.org](http://Bugwood.org), [USDA PLANTS Database](http://USDA PLANTS Database), [USDA NRCS PLANTS Database](http://USDA NRCS PLANTS Database), [Bugwood.org](http://Bugwood.org)