

# Floating Primrose Willow

(*Ludwigia peploides*)

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## **Identification:**

A yellow 5-petaled flower, with petals growing to 1/2 inch long, can be observed in late July to August. Leaves are light green, alternate, and pinnate, but can vary in size and shape from lance to egg shaped. Leaves can grow up to 3 1/2 inches in length. The leaves have smooth edges and are either hairless or have long, soft hairs. Leaf veins are light green and pinnate. The red stems tend to grow flat along the waters surface or flat across mud.



## **Habitat and Spread:**

This herbaceous perennial plant can grow in waters up to 10 feet deep, wet areas, and can tolerate dry periods. Wet areas it can grow in include freshwater wetlands, ponds, shorelines, and streams. This aquatic invasive species create dense mats of vegetation on the waters surface, lowering light availability throughout the water column, decreasing dissolved oxygen levels, increasing sedimentation, reducing pH, and reducing water flow. These impacts are altering native vegetation, waterfowl, and fish communities.

This plant spreads through plant fragmentation, when pieces of the plants break off and grow roots. It also produces seeds as a mode of reproduction. The plant is not free-floating and must be rooted into sediment.

## **Management Techniques:**

Prevention is the best management technique. This plant may be sold therefore it is important to check the scientific names of plants before purchasing them. New introductions into waterways is also a good preventative measure. If there is a small infestation the whole plant, with no fragments being left behind, can be removed and placed into garbage bags in order to prevent further spread. If the infestation is larger and already established herbicides can be used but a permit is required due to the plant growing in aquatic conditions.

## **Native Range and Original Introduction:**

Native to parts of North, Central and South America it has become very invasive outside of its native range. It has been introduced and is considered invasive in France, Belgium, Italy, Netherlands, Australia, and in the US Delaware, New York, and Washington.

