



Floating Primrose Willow

(*Ludwigia peploides* spp.)



Photo by: Juan Campá
MGAP
Bugwood.org

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Description

One of the most distinctive features of the floating primrose is its yellow, five-petaled flower. The petals are about 0.5" long and can be observed from late July to August. Leaves are light green, alternate, and pinnate, but can vary in size and shape from lanceolate to oval. Leaves can grow up to 3.5" in length. The leaves have smooth edges and can be either hairless or have long, soft hairs. Red stems tend to grow flat along the water's surface or flat across the mud. Floating primrose spreads easily through plant fragmentation but also produces seeds as a mode of reproduction. The plant is not free-floating and must be rooted into the sediment. There are several subspecies of *L. peploides*.

Native Range and Original Use

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

Habitat and Dispersion

This herbaceous perennial plant can grow in waters up to 10 feet deep and can tolerate dry periods. It can also be found growing in wetlands, ponds, shorelines, and along streams. This aquatic invasive species creates dense mats of vegetation on the water's surface, lowering light availability throughout the water column, decreasing dissolved oxygen levels, increasing sedimentation, reducing pH, and reducing water flow. These impacts alter native vegetation, waterfowl, and fish communities.

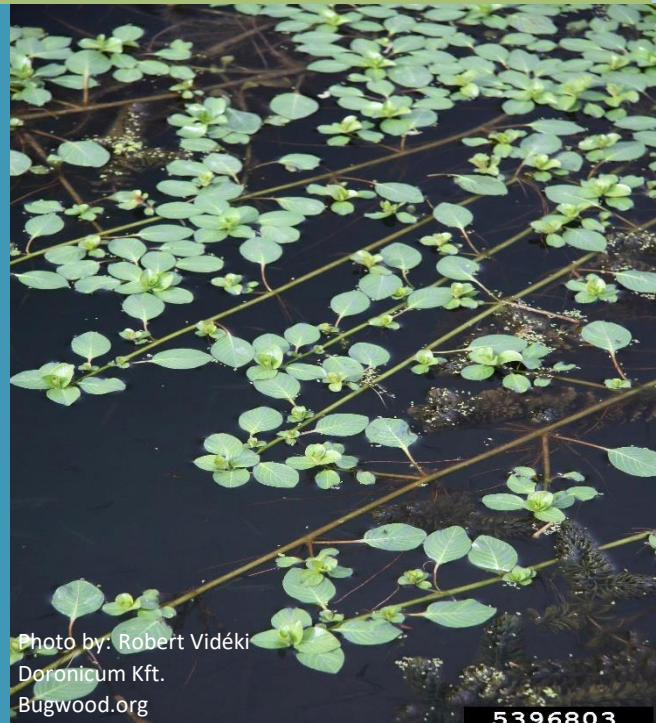


Photo by: Robert Vidéki
Doronicum Kft.
Bugwood.org

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Photo by: Graves Lovell
Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
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Best Management Practice

Floating primrose is listed as prohibited in NYS, but confusion with subspecies and developing taxonomy can lead to it being sold under different names. Prevention is the best management technique. 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.

Source:

If you find floating primrose willow, please contact
Sarah Coney at sconey@catskillcenter.org and report on iMap

CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY!