



Photo: Troy Abercrombie

*****NOXIOUS WEED ALERT*****

Lesser Celandine

Lesser Celandine (*Ficaria verna*) is a perennial in the Ranunculaceae family. Native to Europe and Asia, lesser celandine was brought to North America as an ornamental and favored for its showy flowers, glossy leaves and early season emergence. There are historic medicinal uses as well.

Why is it a problem?

Lesser celandine is toxic and can be potentially fatal to grazing animals and humans. Equally problematic is the plants hardiness. Nearly 80% of the United States is considered suitable habitat and it can spread at a rate of up to 10 acres per year!

Established stands begin to form their vegetative mats in late winter, ensuring little competition when spring arrives and creating a dense monoculture. The above ground mat and the dense underground network of tubers make it exceedingly difficult for native plants, and even other ornamentals, to compete.

More recently, horticulturists have developed new varieties with different colored flowers. These varieties are equally invasive but more difficult to identify.

What Can You Do?

Lesser celandine can be difficult to eradicate once it is established due to its ability to propagate vegetatively. Take special care to

remove all roots and dispose of properly. Solarization of removed plants is a good practice before disposal.

Chemical treatments may be required for larger infestations and can be quite effective when timed properly. Please consult with your local SWCD or Noxious Weeds Dept. for guidance and always follow label directions.

For more info on lesser celandine:

[ODA Profile](#)

[Invasive Plant Science and Management](#)

The Western Invasive Networks is asking for your help in identifying populations of lesser celandine in Oregon.

How Do I Report Lesser Celandine?

Report Online at:

<https://oregoninvasiveshotline.org/>

-or-

Call 1-866-INVADER

-or-

Contact [your local CWMA](#)



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The showy flowers make lesser celandine a popular spring garden plant. (Photo: Troy Abercrombie)



Lesser celandine can even displace dense, established lawns. (Photos: Troy Abercrombie)

