



Lesser celandine

Ranunculus ficaria L.

Lesser celandine is easy to spot at the moment as it blooms away. As with many invasive plants, it was introduced as an ornamental and is still a commercially popular plant. The flowers can be found in different colors and all cultivated varieties are invasive.

Lesser celandine is a perennial ground cover with low-growing heart-shaped to kidney-shaped leaves. The flowers are a bright yellow, have 8 petals, and appear from April to May. Plants spend most of the year underground, forming tubers and underground stems, before emerging in the late winter/early spring. It carpets a forest floor, thereby preventing native spring ephemerals from emerging. Wildlife depending on these native plants also suffer. Removal can be through manual or chemical means. If removing by hand or shovel, be sure to remove the underground tubers with the plants. Herbicide can be used from March until May. Follow directions and be careful to not spray innocent native plants in the area. As always, be sure to identify the plant properly – **if in doubt, don't pull it out**. Check out <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/rafi1.htm> for more information.