# Lesser celandine

# Ranunculus ficaria



### HABITAT:

 Shade tolerant, commonly near water, low forested floodplains, damp meadows, open woods

#### **ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS:**

• Its tubers shoot up and form leaves in the late winter and it spreads to create dense patches that block sunlight for other native plants like spring ephemerals <sup>1</sup>

# TIMING:

- Blooms March May
- Seed germination in late May through early June

#### **MANAGEMENT:**

- Small infestations: hand pull or dig up - removing the root systems, bulblets and tubers at the stem bases to prevent regrowth. Dispose of in bags.
- Large infestations: Use a nonionic surfactant if found near water to decrease harm to plants and amphibians (follow label directions when applying any herbicide)







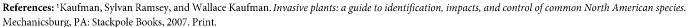
# Plant at a Glance:

- 1. **Leaf**: basal rosette, heart or kidney-shaped, vary in size, dark green, lower leaves are opposite
- 2. **Flower**: symmetrical, 8 yellow petals, star shaped, grow on single stalks that rise above leaves
- 3. Fruit: dry fruit, globose in shape

## **Native Alternative:**

Marsh marigold, Caltha palustris

- Blooms April to mid June
- Habitat: wet woodlands, swamps, marshes
- **Benefits and Uses**: grows in large clumps and blooms early in spring, bringing color to the garden or natural landscape.
- **Growing tips**: does best in moist conditions with full or partial sun and muddy soil. Tolerates shallow standing water in spring.



**Photos:** courtesy of J.K. Lindsey, Maastricht University, Ecology of Commanster <a href="http://www.commanster.eu/commanster/Plants/Flowers/SpFlowers/Ranunculus.ficaria.html">http://www.commanster.eu/commanster/Plants/Flowers/SpFlowers/Ranunculus.ficaria.html</a>>.



