

## Invasive non native species: Water Primrose (*Ludwigia grandiflora*)

Water Primrose is a creeping water plant with leaves like willow and flowers like Primroses. It appears to have spread from ornamental ponds where it was originally planted. It lives in ponds and slow flowing water. In the UK it spreads mainly by vegetative fragments so machinery and water may spread it further. However it can spread by seed and they remain viable in water for 3 months.



Water Primrose is not native to the UK and can cause a range of problems as it spreads.

**Environmental impact:** dense impenetrable mats of Water Primrose plants on both bare mud and water outcompete native plants for light, nutrients and pollinators.

**Economic Impact:** it can create navigational problems on waterways, reduce recreation and a site's amenity value and increase flood risk.

**Water Primrose is not yet fully established in the UK, reports from France and Belgium suggest it could cost £250 million to eradicate.**

**Water Primrose is a GB alert species. It is important to report this species if you spot it: [alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:alertnonnative@ceh.ac.uk) or [https://www.brc.ac.uk/risc/water\\_primrose.php](https://www.brc.ac.uk/risc/water_primrose.php)**

**Biosecurity:** you can help stop the spread of invasive non native species, which can cause problems and are expensive to treat, through the following actions:

**CHECK** your equipment, clothing and footwear

**CLEAN** everything thoroughly, use hot water if possible

**DRY** everything, as some species can survive for up to two weeks in damp conditions



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