

Lesser Celandine

an invasive plant in Michigan

Presented By Diane Gregory

Lesser Celandine/
Fig Buttercup,
Ficaria verna, or
Ranunculus ficaria

*The cute little plant
you do not want in
your garden!*



Lesser Celandine appears very early in the spring. Along with Bloodroot, Trillium, Trout lily and Virginia Bluebells



Lesser Celandine looks like a little Marsh Marigold,
Caltha palustris (MI native), They are not related



They are not related to Greater Celandine, Wood poppy,
Stylophorum diphyllum, either (a MI native)



Masses of lesser celandine 2022

Fig buttercup/*Ranunculus ficaria*/*Ficaria verna*



Masses of lesser celandine in 2023



Lesser celandine en masse along both sides of the fence



Lesser celandine
Ranunculus ficaria
Ficaria verna



Marsh Marigold
Caltha palustris



Lesser celandine
en masse



Wood poppy
en masse

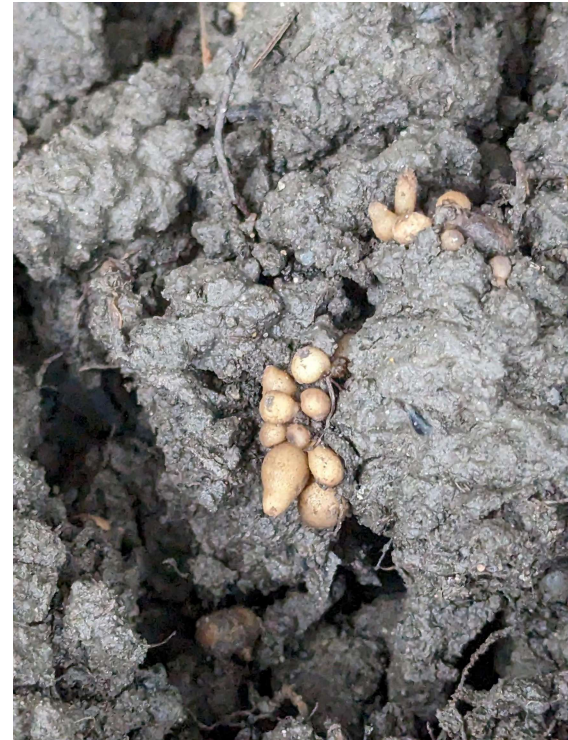


Lesser celandine bulbs



Many bulbs In the dirt
the seed head (circled in red) is the size of a dime

Close up of bulb clusters



Cleaning and sorting



Disposing of bulbs



Eradicating lesser celandine

- You have a very small window of opportunity to kill lesser celandine in the spring. It does respond well to glyphosate. I used weed begone in the grass and near the stream.
- The problem is it comes up with the spring ephemerals, so you must be very careful spraying
- And you must spray before it is in full bloom. If you can hit it before it blooms, that's the best.



You can also dig it up

- This is a pain. I have been digging it up this fall as I am transplanting. I collected seven 5-gallon buckets of wet clay and tried sorting the tiny little bulbs. I let the soil dry, then sorted some more. You do not want to put this in the compost or local yard waste. You should tie it in garage bags and throw it in the trash.
- I found the bulbs to be on the surface and close to the top of the soil. They seem to cluster around other plant roots. I have found them deeper in the dirt, I don't know if this is from transplanting.
- I Have had lesser celandine in my yard for 30 years. I didn't pay any attention to it. It is small and cute and disappears after the spring. But when I started moving plants, I started moving it around and it seemed to activate it. Within a few years, it was everywhere. It has had a huge impact on my spring ephemerals.

I reported it to Midwest invasive species information network

- In 2021, I reported it to MISIN and started treatment.
- I have sprayed the last three spring seasons and probably have a least two more years of spraying.
- I also try and get rid of it when I am digging in the garden.
- National invasive species information center, NISIC, invasive.org, has very good pictures of lesser celandine.
- MISIN refers to it as *Ficaria verna*, other sources refer to it as *Ranunculus ficaria*