

IFI ALERT - Invasive Species!

water primrose

(Ludwigia grandiflora)

What is it?

An attractive but highly invasive plant that grows in or alongside ponds, lakes and wetlands. Grows from fragments. Native to South America but is causing serious economic and environmental problems in France and England. Recently recorded in a small number of artificial garden ponds in Co Kerry.

NOT YET RECORDED IN THE WILD IN IRELAND



Photo by: Joe Caffrey

How do you identify it?

- Long red stems that grow horizontally on water or mud; the stems will also emerge to 1 m above the water surface. Stems can grow to 5 m in length.
- Most plants have alternate dark green leaves of two types: emerged long and slender (willow like) and floating oval forms.
- Large yellow flowers, each with 5 petals.

Why are we concerned?

In suitable waters this plant grows very rapidly and establishes large, dense (often impenetrable) surface and sub-surface vegetation carpets. These can block watercourses and interfere with boating, cruising, angling, irrigation, drainage and other water uses. Dense stands will deplete dissolved oxygen from the water, resulting in fish kills, compete with native species for space and resources, and reduce biodiversity.

How do we stop the spread of this species?

- Do not purchase from garden centres or accept cuttings. If you see this invasive plant in a garden centre or in a garden pond, report the sighting immediately to the emergency response number below.

Please report sighting to Inland Fisheries Ireland at info@fisheriesireland.ie

or call **1890 Fish 24 / 1890 3474 24** (24 hrs)



lascach Intíre Éireann
Inland Fisheries Ireland



STOP! The spread of invasive species