



## Lesser celandine (*Ficaria verna*)

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### Plant description

Lesser celandine (also known as fig buttercup) is an early spring ephemeral. It forms dense, short mats on forest floors and along waterways. Plants emerge early in spring (March) and flower in late April through May, producing a showy yellow flower borne on long stalks. It is spread by seed and perennial structures found belowground.

### Non-Chemical Controls

#### Removal

**Effectiveness:** 50-70%

**Remarks:** The entire root system including perennial roots and bulbils need to be removed. This can be effective in small patches, especially if soil conditions are amenable to removal/digging (e.g., sandy soil). Bag any material collected and dispose of it in a landfill or burn it to avoid potential for spread. Do not compost.

#### Manipulation of Environment

**Effectiveness:** < 50%

**Remarks:** Planting dense native groundcover can compete with this species. As this is a spring ephemeral, species selection should focus on species that will emerge early and compete with this plant in spring. Later emerging species likely will have limited effect.



*A dense mat of lesser celandine in bloom*

### Chemical Controls

(FOLIAR, 70-90% EFFECTIVE)

#### Glyphosate (Roundup)

**Broadcast:** 1.0-2.0 lb a.e./A; Spot: 2-3% (0.07-0.11 lb a.e./gal)

**Timing:** Apply in spring when plant is fully leafed out. Effectiveness is similar before or during flowering.

**Caution:** Use product labeled for aquatic use if potential exists for solution to contact surface waters. Applications can result in bare ground since glyphosate is not selective.

#### Imazapyr (Arsenal)

**Broadcast:** 32-48 fl oz/A; Spot: 0.5% (0.01 lb a.e./gal)

**Timing:** Apply in spring when plant is fully leafed out and actively growing. Effectiveness is similar before or during flowering

**Caution:** Use product labeled for aquatic use if potential exists for solution to contact surface waters. Applications can result in bare ground since imazapyr is not selective and can be taken up from soil.



*Lesser celandine exhibits yellow flowers late-April through May*



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### Triclopyr (Remedy)

**Broadcast:** 16–32 fl oz/A; Spot: 2–3% (0.08–0.12 lb a.e./gal)

**Timing:** Apply in spring when plant is fully leafed out. Effectiveness is similar before or during flowering

**Caution:** Use product labeled for aquatic use if potential exists for solution to contact surface waters. This option is recommended in grass/turf settings as established grasses are tolerant to applications.

### Metsulfuron (Escort)

**Broadcast:** 0.5–1.0 oz/A; Spot: 0.01 oz/gal (0.006 oz a.i./gal)

**Timing:** Apply in spring when plant is fully leafed out. Effectiveness is similar before or during flowering

**Caution:** Check label to ensure product can be applied in habitat (no aquatic label). This option is recommended in grass/turf settings as established grasses are tolerant to applications.



*Lesser celandine tolerates moist, shady woodland sites and waterways*

Herbicide information is based on label rates and reports by researchers and land managers. References to products are for your convenience and not an endorsement. Detailed information on the use, restrictions and regulations can be found on the pesticide label. Read the label before any application; it is your legal responsibility to apply pesticides in accordance with label directions.

**For More Information:** For more information on Lesser Celandine, visit [renzweeds.cals.wisc.edu](https://renzweeds.cals.wisc.edu).

- Lesser Celandine Identification Slides: [go.wisc.edu/LesserCelandine-ID](https://go.wisc.edu/LesserCelandine-ID)
- Lesser Celandine Control Study: [go.wisc.edu/LC-ControlStudy](https://go.wisc.edu/LC-ControlStudy)