

LEAST WANTED!

P L A N T 2 0 1 1



JOE BOGGS

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LESSER CELANDINE *Ranunculus ficaria*

Lesser celandine, also known as Fig-root buttercup (*Ranunculus ficaria*) is a perennial spring-flowering plant that was introduced to North America from Europe for ornamental use. Its glossy dark green leaves grow low to the ground and are kidney- to heart-shaped.

The plant is in the buttercup family, with flowers that are bright golden yellow with slightly darker centers. The plant is becoming common in shady moist woodlands and lawns in Kentucky. Each plant produces abundant root tubers and bulblets, leading to a thick carpet of

lesser celandine across forest floors and lawns. These monocultures can displace native plants, contributing to the loss of biodiversity. Control is difficult due to prolific bulblet and tuber production and its brief period of above-ground growth.

NATIVE ALTERNATIVES



TOM BARNES, UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY



ROBIN NYSTROM



KELVIN TAYLOR

LOBED TICKSEED

(*Coreopsis auriculata*) is a hardy low-growing coreopsis with hairy stems and foliage that persists through most of the winter. From April through May small bright yellow, daisy-like flowers are produced, and the plant may sporadically bloom afterwards until frost. This coreopsis is unique in its small, compact habit; growing only 4-24 inches high. Plants spread to form colonies via rhizomes and seed, which makes this a great species to use en masse or for naturalizing.

CELANDINE POPPY

(*Stylophorum diphyllum*), also known as the wood poppy, is a herbaceous perennial native to forests in the eastern U.S. Growing to a height of 12-18 inches, it produces showy flowers in mid to late spring that are 2 inches wide with four large yellow petals. The deeply lobed leaves are bluish-green, providing a nice contrast to the flowers. It adapts easily to garden settings with full to partial shade and moist, rich soil. The bloom time can be prolonged by planting in partial sun and deadheading. It can spread naturally through an underground rhizome and the ability to self-seed, making it a nice addition to a woodland garden or border.

GREEN & GOLD

or goldenstar (*Chrysogonum virginianum*), is a herbaceous plant in the sunflower family. It has opposite, softly hairy, triangular to ovate leaves on long petioles. Leaves are 1 to 3 inches long and wide. The plant can reach 18 inches in height, but may flower at 2 inches tall. The flower heads are 2-2 1/2 inches across and contrast strongly with the dark green leaves, hence the name. Green and gold grows in light to moderate shade in average soil producing a thick ground cover once established. It is relatively free of pests, but may be nibbled on by various insects.

To heighten awareness of invasive plants that threaten Kentucky's native biodiversity, a Least Wanted plant will be featured in the Spring of each year with suggested alternatives.

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