

Water-primrose (*Ludwigia peploides*)



Habitat: Aquatic, freshwater
Family name: Onagraceae
Common name: Creeping Water-primrose, floating primrose-willow



Water-primrose stand

Description: creeping water-primrose (*Ludwigia peploides*) is a perennial aquatic plant whose long stems creep over mud or shallow water, sometimes forming dense mats which float on the water's surface. This species is named for its yellow, primrose-like flowers, while its long, leaves (*sometime oval*) resemble those of willows, leading to its alternative name of 'floating primrose-willow'.



Water-primrose infestation

Each of the creeping water-primrose's bright yellow flowers has five petals and grows on a long stalk arising from a leaf axil, where the leaf attaches to the plant stem.



Water-primrose flower sepals



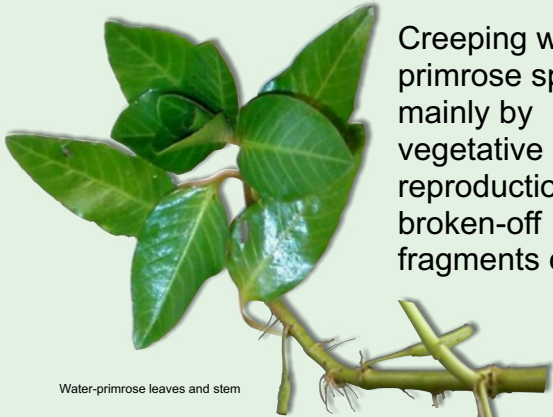
Water-primrose flower

The flowers of this species are usually about 1 to 3 cm in diameter.



Water-primrose sepals

Water-primrose leaves are arranged alternately along stems and can be ovate (*egg shaped*) or slender in shape.



Water-primrose leaves and stem

Creeping water-primrose spreads mainly by vegetative reproduction, with broken-off fragments of its

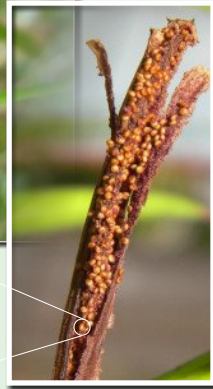
stems easily rooting and growing into new plants. Stems can grow to 5 m in length.

The stems of the creeping water-primrose are red-ish in colour, fleshy and can have either a smooth or slightly hairy surface.

This species has two types of roots, the first anchoring the plant to the soil and taking in nutrients while the second aids in the uptake of oxygen.



The second type of root occurs at intervals along the plant's stems and allows the creeping water-primrose to re-grow from stem fragments



Water-primrose seed pods & seeds

The fruit of the creeping water-primrose is a long, narrow, cylindrical capsule between 1 to 4 cm long and contains numerous small seeds

Water-primrose can normally be found in slow moving water bodies and can grow to 1m high above the surface, often disguising areas as dry land.



Winter stems