

Floating Pennywort

(*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*)



Habitat: Aquatic, Freshwater
Family name: Apiaceae



Floating Pennywort Infestation



Description: Green leaves and waxy in appearance, circular and kidney shaped leaves that emerge from nodes along the long and fleshy horizontal stem.

Starting from small plants or fragments, plants start growing slowly in spring as soon as the ice melts.

With increasing temperature, and light intensity, the leaves become larger and reach a height of up to 40 cm above the water.



Floating Pennywort Flower

Flowers are small and pale white to yellow in colour grouped by 5 to 10 in a small umbel.

The inflorescence is borne on a leafless stalk, 1-6 cm in length and remaining shorter than the petioles. Flowers lack sepals, and have 5 unconnected petals and 5 stamens. The ovary is inferior, two-lobed and has 2 styles.



Floating Pennywort Leaf

leaves are non-peltate, suborbicular to reniform with a cordate base, (25) 40 – 100 (180) mm in diameter, usually broader than long.

Leaves are shallowly or deeply incised into 3-7 rounded, crenate or lobulate subequal lobes.



Floating Pennywort Satnd

The plants flower and fruit between May and October and develop smaller fresh leaves producing both floating and submerged leaves. Most of the leaves die off as frosts set in.

Vegetative growth can be very rapid, with floating mats



extending up to 20 cm per day



Floating Pennywort is a perennial plant species, reproducing by producing stolons (stoloniferous). New shoots are formed even from small stem fragments. Up to 90% of stem fragments 1 cm in length and with only one node, with or without leaves can regenerate within one week. Stems float in the water or creep onto the shore and



Floating Pennywort Fruit

1 mm



Floating Pennywort Root

root freely from nodes at about 3-10 cm intervals. The alternate leaves are emergent or floating and sit above the horizontal stem on fleshy petioles of up to 40 cm long. Small, dry, round fruits are brownish, nearly round and flat, 2 - 2,5 mm long and 3 - 3,5 mm wide, with faint ribs and divided into two halves, each with a small persistant stalk.