

Ludwigia peploides subsp. montevidensis

COMMON NAMES

water primrose, primrose willow

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Sprawling emergent perennial herb, characterised by rapid growth that can smother other vegetation. Primrose willow has branched stems with roots at the nodes, either attached to soil or hanging in the water. The leaves are alternate and obtuse, and up to 6 cm long. Their upper surfaces are glossy and they taper into petioles that are up to 2.8 cm long, with two dark green, swollen, rounded stipules at the base. The flowers are up to 2 cm, bright yellow, and arise on stalks from the leaf axils.

FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Herb, forming large patches; stems creeping or floating, rooting at nodes, with pneumatophores sometimes present below water; flowering stems ascending, with patent hairs or more regularly glabrate. Lvs alternate; petiole 0.5-3 cm long, glabrous or somewhat hairy. Lamina 2-8 X 0.7-3 cm, elliptic, oblanceolate or obovate, glabrous except for midrib near base; base cuneate to attenuate; apex obtuse to rounded. Fls solitary, 4-5-merous; pedicels 1.5-4.5 cm long at anthesis, generally with patent hairs. Sepals 6-8 mm long, narrow-triangular or lanceolate-oblong, scarcely accrescent; apex emarginate. Petals 1.5-1.7 mm long, bright yellow. Stamens 8 or 10; filaments unequal. Style c. 4 mm long, stout, hairy. Stamina slightly 4-lobed. Capsule 2-2.7 cm long, narrow-cylindrical, ribbed, woody, glabrous or glabrate. Seeds firmly embedded in cubes of woody endocarp c. 1.5 mm thick, uniseriate in each locule.

SIMILAR TAXA

Other *Ludwigia* species and alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*). All these plants have opposite rather than alternate leaves.

DISTRIBUTION

Locally naturalised in the North Island (Northland, Auckland, Waikato and Manawatu).

HABITAT

Still and slow flowing shallow water bodies.

GENUS

Ludwigia



Ludwigia peploides. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.



Ludwigia peploides. Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth, Licence: CC BY-NC.

FAMILY

Onagraceae

AUTHORITY

Ludwigia peploides subsp. montevidensis (Spreng.) P.H.Raven

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

FLOWERING

November to February

YEAR NATURALISED

1933

ORIGIN

Native of South America and eastern states of Australia

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental pond plant.

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Generally not controlled in New Zealand, but problematic in Europe/North America. Can be controlled manually, mechanically or herbicidally depending on situation.

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Stem fragments and seed.

PROPAGATION TECHNIQUE

Native of South America and eastern states of Australia

WETLAND PLANT INDICATOR STATUS RATING

OBL: Obligate Wetland

Almost always is a hydrophyte, rarely in uplands (non-wetlands).

NATIONAL PEST PLANT ACCORD SPECIES

This plant is listed in the 2020 National Pest Plant Accord. The National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA) is an agreement to prevent the sale and/or distribution of specified pest plants where either formal or casual horticultural trade is the most significant way of spreading the plant in New Zealand. For up to date information and an electronic copy of the 2020 Pest Plant Accord manual (including plant information and images) visit the [MPI website](#).

ENVIRONMENTAL WEED (2024)

This plant is named in a list of 386 environmental weeds in New Zealand 2024 prepared by DOC. 759 candidate species were considered for inclusion on this new comprehensive list of environmental weeds in New Zealand. The species considered were drawn from published lists of weed species, lists of plants that must be reported or managed by law if observed, existing national and regional programmes and agreements for pest management, and species already managed by the Department of Conservation (DOC). Candidate species were then assessed to see if they were fully naturalised and whether they have more than minor impacts in natural ecosystems. Read the full report [here](#).

NVS CODE

LUDPSM

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

Champion et al (2012). Freshwater Pests of New Zealand. NIWA publication.

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Aston, H (1977). Aquatic plants of Australia. Melbourne University Press, 367PP.; Popay et al (2010). An illustrated guide to common weeds of New Zealand, third edition. NZ Plant Protection Society Inc, 416pp.

Coffey BT, Clayton JS (1988). New Zealand water plants: a guide to plants found in New Zealand freshwaters. Ruakura Agricultural Centre. 65pp.

DiTomaso JM, EA Healy (2003). Aquatic and riparian weeds of the west. University of California Agriculture and Natural Resources Publication 3421, 462pp.

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Webb, C.J.; Sykes, W.R.; Garnock-Jones, P.J. (1988). Flora of New Zealand Volume 4: Naturalised pteridophytes, gymnosperms, dicotyledons. Botany Division, DSIR, Christchurch. 1365 pp.

ATTRIBUTION

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA). Features description from Webb et. al., 1988.

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ludwigia-peploides-subsp-montevidensis/>

PDF DATE

08 June 2026