



Photo: Lisa Brown



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\*\*\*\*\*NOXIOUS WEED ALERT\*\*\*\*\*

# Water Primrose

Water Primrose (*Ludwigia sp.*) is a genus of perennial aquatic plants that is native to South America and was introduced to the US through the aquarium and pond trades. Three different species have been identified as invasive in Oregon. *L. hexapetala* and *L. peploides* are designated as "B" and "T" list weeds in Oregon. "T" list designations mandate immediate eradication efforts.

## Why is it a problem?

*Ludwigia* is an extremely aggressive aquatic and riparian invader that can take over a waterway in very short order. In some cases, infestations can double in size in less than two weeks. Due to the mild climate in parts of western Oregon, it is even possible for *Ludwigia* to avoid dormancy.

Infested waterways become clogged and water flow slows down, leading to sediment deposition. Commonly found in irrigation ditches, herbicide control is often not possible, however effective, without unacceptable damage to crops that are serviced by those systems.

Dense monocultures affect recreation, water-based commerce and reduce fish and wildlife habitat. This degradation reduces oxygen levels, species richness and diversity while providing fertile breeding grounds for unwanted pests like mosquitoes, which can present serious health hazards.

## What Can You Do?

First, call your local SWCD or Oregon Dept. of Ag representative. Cutting or harvesting can be effective on smaller infestations but are cost-prohibitive on larger populations. For larger populations, specialized herbicides applied by specially licensed professionals may be required. When applicable, herbicide treatments are the most effective method of control.

The Tillamook County Soil & Water Conservation District, as the agent for *Tillamook County Weed Control District*, is asking for your help in identifying populations of Water Primrose in Tillamook County.

As they are identified and confirmed, we can offer technical assistance to landowners with infestations. This may include treatment guidance, survey work and/or treatment assistance. All infestations will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

## How Do I Report Water Primrose?

Please call the Tillamook SWCD at: (503) 842-2848 ext: 103

-or-

Report Online at:

<https://oregoninvasiveshotline.org/>



*Prolific seed production and vegetative reproduction contribute to Ludwigias ability to spread rapidly. Populations can double in size in a matter of weeks. (Photo: Oregon Metro)*



*Ludwigia has overtaken the Smith/Bybee wetlands in Portland, Oregon. (Photo: Oregon Metro)*