

Floating pennywort

Hydrocotyle ranunculoides

Invasive: High impact

Species profile

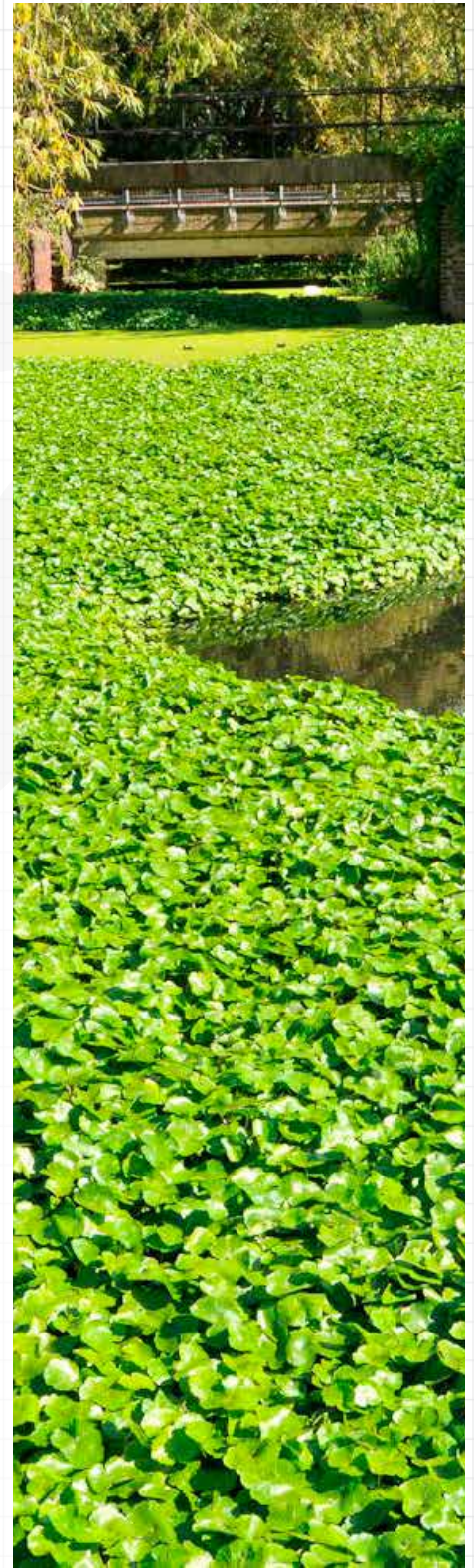
- Habitat:** Freshwater.
- Distribution in Ireland:** Very localised to two counties in the north east of Ireland.
- Status:** Established.
- Family name:** Apiaceae.
- Reproduction:** Plant reproduces by producing stolons (stoloniferous).

Identifying features

- Colour:** Green leaves and waxy in appearance.
- Leaves:** Circular and kidney shaped leaves that appear from nodes along the horizontal stem.
- Stalks:** Long and fleshy.
- Flower:** Rare, small and pale white to yellow in colour, followed by small, dry, round fruits.



Green kidney shaped leaves
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Floating pennywort infestation
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Floating pennywort

Threats

Can outcompete native species for food and space.

Blocks water-bodies that can cause areas to be vulnerable to flooding.

Deoxygenates water which can impact on fish and other fauna.

Species can grow quickly, up to 20cms a day.

Similar species

Marsh pennywort (*Hydrocotyle vulgaris*) native.

Hairy pennywort (*Hydrocotyle moschata*) non-native.

Marsh pennywort

Smaller with
stalk attached
to centre of leaf
like an
umbrella



Floating pennywort

Larger with stalk attached between
lobes of kidney-shaped leaf



Comparison between marsh and floating pennywort
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Floating pennywort taking over a waterbody
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