



## Water primrose (*Ludwigia* spp.)

Originated in South America. Accidentally introduced in Languedoc around 1830. Later used as an ornamental plant in outdoor basins.

### Description

- Amphibious plant, rooted
- Rigid stalk with nodes, easily breakable
- Yellow flowers, separate petals (*L. peploides*) or overlapping petals (*L. grandiflora*)
- Brace roots and aeriferous roots
- Fruit in the form of capsules

### Ecology and reproduction

- High adaptation (long stalks along the surface, branches) and colonisation capabilities (complete occupation of the available space, growth above the water level)
- Very resistant plant (strong root system)
- Production of large quantities of biomass, layer of plant litter on some sites
- Sexual reproduction is possible
- Wide range of favourable biotopes:
  - shallow wetlands
  - edges of ponds and lakes
  - channels, ditches, side channels
  - rivers with low discharges during the summer
  - wet meadows

### Documentation

- Lambert E. 2009. Plantes exotiques envahissantes - Synthèse bibliographique. CERE/UCO/Angers-GIS « Macrophytes des eaux continentales » - Comité des Pays de la Loire/Gestion des plantes exotiques envahissantes – 2<sup>e</sup> ed. complétée, 110 pp.
- Hudin S., Vahrameev P. (coord.) 2010. Guide d'identification des plantes exotiques envahissant les milieux aquatiques et les berges du bassin Loire-Bretagne. Fédération des conservatoires d'espaces naturels, 45 pp.

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#### Classification

Order	Myrtales
Family	Onagraceae
Genus	<i>Ludwigia</i>
Species	<i>L. peploides</i> ((Kunth) P.H.Raven, 1963) <i>L. grandiflora</i> ((Michx.) Greuter et Burdet, 1987)



1. Creeping water primrose (*Ludwigia peploides*).
2. Large-flower water primrose (*Ludwigia grandiflora*).
3. The pond colonised by water primrose in the Var department.
4. Root system.
5. Sprouting water primrose.

