

Species Profile: *Ludwigia decurrens*



Images: Larry Allain, courtesy of the U.S. Geological Survey

Scientific Name: *Ludwigia decurrens*

Common name: Wingleaf primrose-willow

Synonyms and Other Names: Winged water-primrose, wingleaf water-primrose, primrose willow, willow primrose, upright primrose, *Jussiaea decurrens*

Taxonomy: available through 

Taxonomic Hierarchy

Kingdom	Plantae
Subkingdom	Viridiplantae
Infrakingdom	Streptophyta
Superdivision	Embryophyta
Division	Tracheophyta
Subdivision	Spermatophytina
Class	Magnoliopsida
Superorder	Rosanae
Order	Myrtales

Family [Onagraceae](#)
Genus [Ludwigia](#) L.
Species [Ludwigia decurrens](#) (DC.) Walter

Retrieved [October, 7, 2023], from the Integrated Taxonomic Information System (ITIS) on-line database, www.itis.gov, [CC0 https://doi.org/10.5066/F7KH0KBK](https://doi.org/10.5066/F7KH0KBK)

Noxious: This species is not listed by the U.S. Department of Agriculture as a noxious weed

Identification: Example Characteristics

Stem/Rhizoids: *L. decurrens* have a semi-woody, upright stem with four wings on the sides (USDA, n.d.).

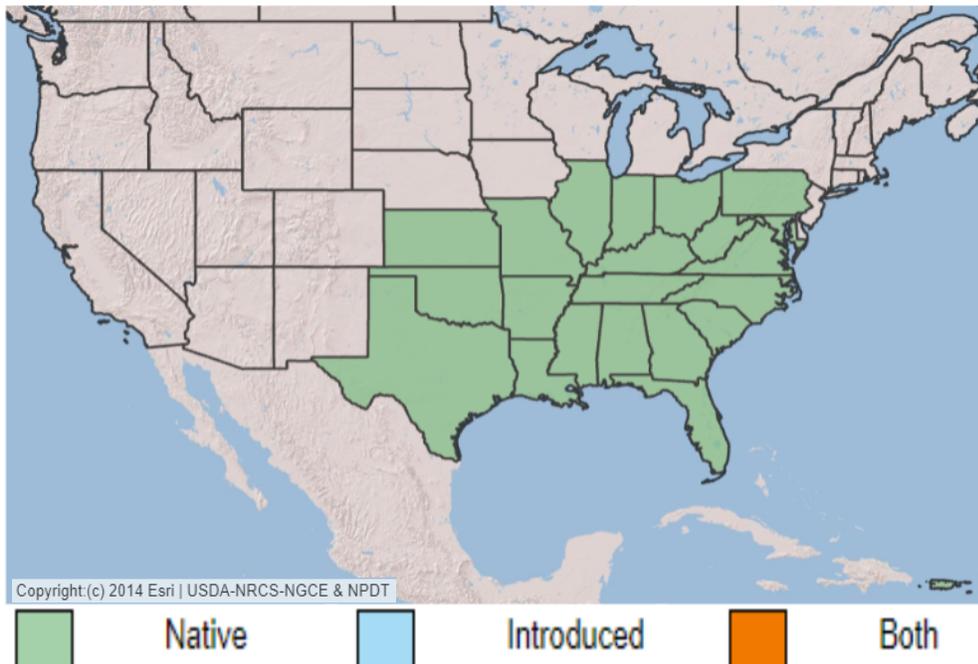
Leaves: The leaves are alternate and have wings that extend down to meet the stem (Williamson, 2017).

Flowers: Small, yellow flowers like many other primroses (USDA, n.d.). Most often have four petals (USGS, n.d.).

Look-a-likes: *Lythrum alatum*

Size: 3-6 feet tall (USDA, n.d.).

Native Range: Native to the southeastern and south central United States (USDA, n.d.).



Native range of *Ludwigia decurrens* in the United States ([USDA PLANTS](#), n.d.)

Nonindigenous Occurrences: Nonindigenous occurrences recorded in South and East Asia, and West Africa (Kurniadie et al., 2021). Some occurrences have been recorded in Butte County, California, where it is now classified as an invasive pest (Kelch, 2015; CDFA, 2021)



Global Distribution of *Ludwigia decurrens* (GBI.org., 2023)

Ecology: *L. decurrens* is an obligate wetland plant that grows in wetland areas like paddy fields, riverbanks, ponds, and streams. It spreads quickly in nonnative ranges due to the high number of seeds it creates that, along with plant fragments, can float on water (Kurniadie et al., 2021). *L. decurrens* may be allelopathic as research has shown it can inhibit the growth and increase mortality of *Corchorus olitorius*, the primary source of jute fiber (Sakpere et al., 2010).

Means of Introduction: Accidentally introduced to nonindigenous range through undetermined means (Kurniadie et al., 2021). Likely dispersed through seeds and plant fragments floating in the irrigation water and tillage and harvest equipment (Kelch, 2015).

Status: *Ludwigia decurrens* has had established populations as a nonnative noxious weed in South and East Asia and West Africa for decades (Dharmaratne & Ranamukhaarachchi, 1991). It was first reported in California in 2011 (Kelch, 2015).

Impact of Introduction: *L. decurrens* is highly competitive with rice in agricultural settings and can reduce yields by up to 30% (Dharmaratne & Ranamukhaarachchi, 1991). It also has the potential to invade natural wetland areas, potentially reducing biodiversity. Herbicide-resistant *L. decurrens* have been found in Indonesia (Kurniadie et al., 2021).

Remarks: Listed as endangered in Pennsylvania (Pennsylvania Natural Heritage Program, n.d.).

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