

Floating Pennywort

Scan for more information



Species Description

Scientific name: *Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*

AKA: *Hydrocotyle nova zealandiae*

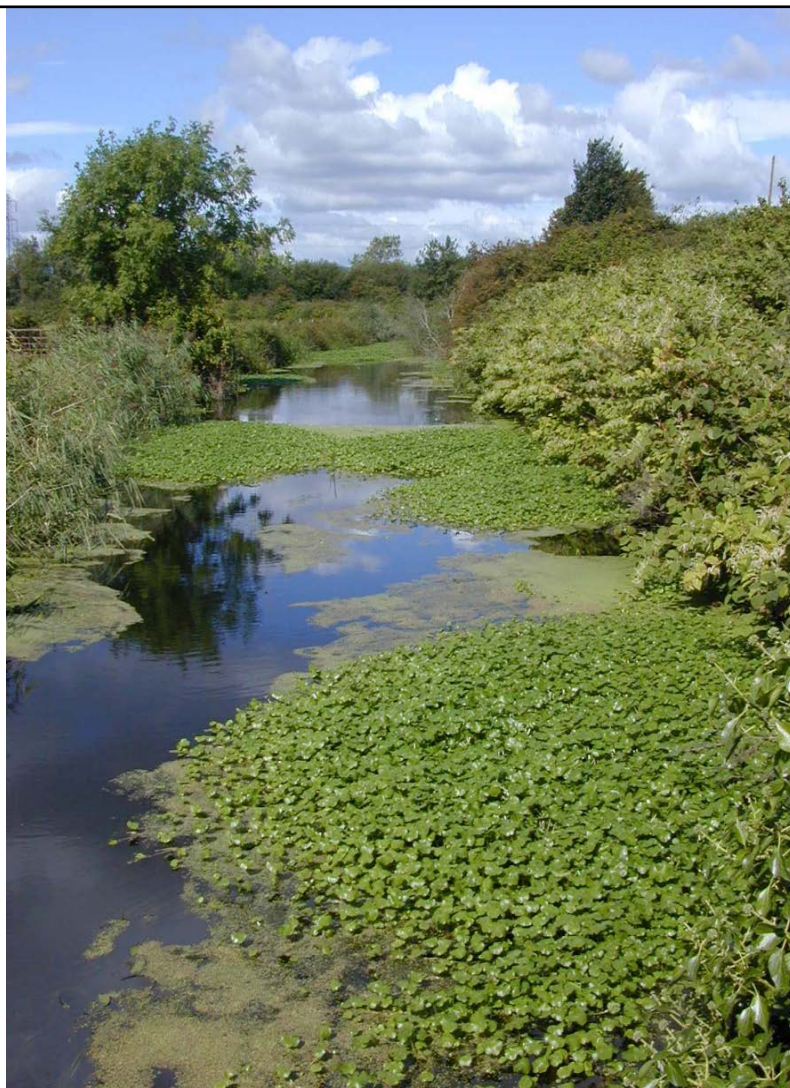
Native to: North America

Habitat: Emergent or floating on the surface of still or slowly moving freshwater

Free-floating or rooted. The characteristic leaves and growth form help to make this plant easy to identify. It is present in a number of locations in Northern Ireland.

Commonly established as a result of discarded plants from garden ponds. Can grow up to 20cm per day and may quickly dominate a waterbody forming thick mats and impeding water flow and amenity use. May out-compete native species by blocking out light, causing deoxygenation, obstructing air breathing insects from reaching the water surface and reducing water temperatures.

Under the Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019 it is offence to intentionally keep; grow or cultivate; transport to, from or within Northern Ireland, use or exchange Floating pennywort, or to release it into the environment.

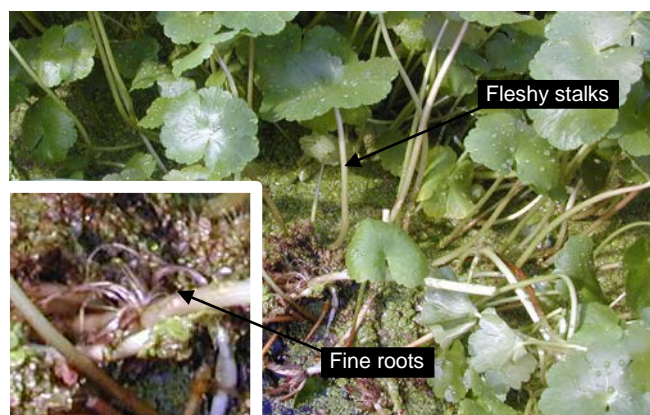


Key ID Features

Grows horizontally



Leaves can be floating or emergent



Shiny, kidney-shaped leaves with crinkled edge, frequently broader than long

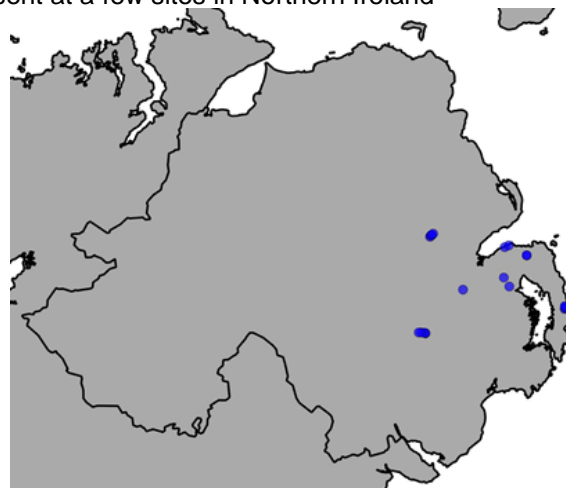
Report any sightings via; CEDaR Online Recording - <https://www2.habitas.org.uk/records/ISI>, iRecord app or Invasive Species Ireland website - <http://invasivespeciesireland.com/report-sighting>

Identification throughout the year

Varies little throughout the year, although in the winter it is most likely to be found at the water's edge. Tiny white flowers are rare, but if present, they appear between July and August.

Distribution

Present at a few sites in Northern Ireland



Source: NBN atlas Northern Ireland
<https://northernireland-species.nbnatlas.org/species/NHMSYS0000459812>
Check website for current distribution

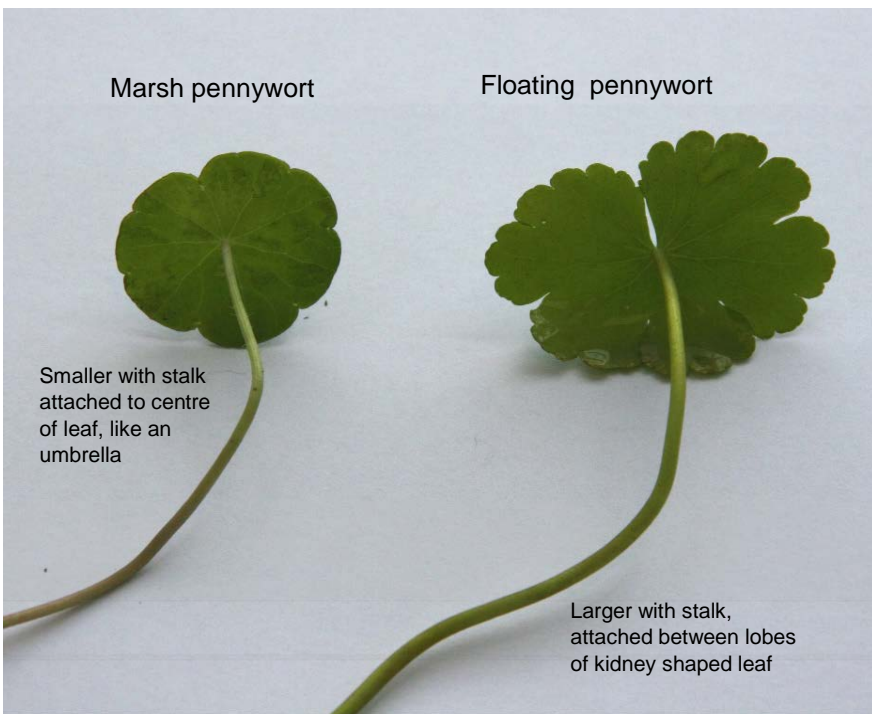
Similar Species



Grows on damp ground in bogs and fens. Always rooted in the ground, never free-floating



Floating pennywort can form dense mats that need to be physically removed



Marsh pennywort

Floating pennywort

Smaller with stalk attached to centre of leaf, like an umbrella

Larger with stalk, attached between lobes of kidney shaped leaf

References and further reading:

Blamey, M, Fitter, R and Fitter, A (2003) *The Wild Flowers of Britain and Ireland. The Complete Guide to the British and Irish Flora.* A & C Black
Preston, C D and Croft, J M (1997) *Aquatic plants in Britain and Ireland*. Harley Books
Preston, C D, Pearman D A and Dines, T A (editors) (2002) *New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora*. Oxford University Press
Stace, C (1999) *Field Flora of the British Isles*. Cambridge University Press
Photos from: Olaf Booy, Richard Lansdown (RL), Mike McCabe, British Waterways.

Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.

Adapted for Northern Ireland Environment Agency 2020