

ORNAMENTALS

• H O T L I N E •

March 28, 2017

Issue 2

WEEDS

Lesser Celandine, *Ranunculus ficaria*, also known as Fig Buttercup is a perennial flowering herbaceous plant that is flowering now. This plant, native to Europe, was brought into the United States as an ornamental plant. This spring ephemeral arises early in the season, often near forest fringe areas, and creates a dense carpet preventing native ephemerals (bloodroot, wind ginger and others) from surviving. Lesser celandine has a basal rosette of dark green and shiny stalked heart to kidney shaped leaves. The yellow flowers arise above the leaves on a delicate stalk and have eight petals (rarely more). The center of the flower is slightly darker in color. Most flowering occurs in this region from March through May. Lesser celandine has pale cream colored bulblets that occur along the stem axils and make mechanical removal difficult. Its spread is vegetative, primarily by tubers and bulblets. Manual removal means removal of all bulblets and deposition of soil in a landfill or other means of destruction. Control with glyphosate (Rodeo for wetland areas) early in the season, Mid-February to early April before native wildflowers emerge. Temperatures must be above 50F for active growth and effective glyphosate control. Wait until half the plants are in bloom to start control. In turf/lawn settings products containing at least two of the following herbicides-MCPA, triclopyr, or dicamba—have been effective, but are not currently labelled.

DISEASES

Nancy Gregory
Plant Diagnostician

INVASIVE OR EXOTIC PESTS come into the U.S. commonly, despite the efforts of U.S. Customs and Border Patrol and other regulatory and educational efforts of USDA and Extension scientists. Agriculture Canine Teams (Beagle Brigades) are used by Customs and Border Patrol. If you have had fruits or plant material confiscated at border crossings, here are some reasons why: Travelers are required to declare all fruits, vegetables, plant material, seeds, animal material, soil, and other items, whether in carryon or checked baggage. There are penalties for failure to declare. Some declared material may be allowed if it is declared, inspected, and found free of pests or is on a list of allowed items (USDA APHIS Website: https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/planthealth/SA_International). Other plant material for propagation requires a Phytosanitary Certificate obtained from the USDA/APHIS Plant Protection and Quarantine Permit Unit. Soil-borne organisms can affect plants and animals, therefore soil is usually not allowed without a permit. If you have been to a farm or nursery abroad, officials may inspect or clean your shoes or clothing. Movement of plant material between states or regions of the U.S. can also result in movement of pests and be regulated, especially if

(Continued)



Lesser celandine in bloom along the James Hall trail in Newark. Photo credit: C. Murphy

What's Hot!

Temperatures have continued to fluctuate and many plant species may show winter damage.

The Environmental Sweep Program (ESP) is a new initiative by Delaware Department of Agriculture that offers easy and environmentally responsible disposal of unwanted, outdated or cancelled pesticides for free:
http://dda.delaware.gov/pesticides/Pest_ESPprogram.shtml

This is the last issue of Ornamentals Hotline that will be mailed to all 2016 subscribers. If you haven't resubscribed, please send in your check today, so you don't get dropped from the list.

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For more information

on pests & practices covered in this newsletter, call your County Extension Office

Helpful numbers to know:



Garden Line (for home gardeners only)	831-8862
New Castle County Extension	831-2506
Kent County Extension	730-4000
Sussex County Extension	856-7303

View more pictures at <http://sites.udel.edu/ornamentals/>

UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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Diseases (Continued)

actionable pests or pathogens have been found in one area but may not be found in another. It is never a good idea to take cuttings when traveling or vacationing and bring them across state lines. Transport of plants in moving vans or when moving is also not recommended. Nursery stock is routinely inspected by state Departments of Agriculture and nurseries are certified, or in the case of specific pathogens there may be a Phytosanitary Certificate that accompanies a nursery stock shipment. All stakeholders need to do their part to protect our plants and landscapes from invasive pests and pathogens.



Agricultural Canine Inspectors. Photo credit: U.S. Custom and Border Patrol.

What's Hot (Continued)

- Spotted lanternfly is an invasive plant hopper from Asia that has been found in Southeastern PA. Its hosts include grapes, apples, stonefruits and tree-of-heaven.
- Early detection is vital to keep this pest from impacting the fruit and forestry industry. A series of workshops on spotted lanternfly are being held in SE PA throughout the month of April. The Montgomery County 4-H Center workshop at 1015 Bridge Road, Collegeville, will be held on Wed. April 12th, 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. For more information and other locations, visit <http://extension.psu.edu/pests/spotted-lanternfly/events> or call 610-489-4315.

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Extension Horticulturist

