

2023 April *Guess that Plant*



Ranunculus ficaria L. Lesser Celandine

April's *Guess that Plant* was the non-native buttercup, the lesser celandine. This species is a member of the Ranunculus family, Ranunculaceae. The plant is also called *Ficaria verna* in Europe. Our *Guess that Plant* is an invasive species, and has spread across the rich floodplains and palustrine forests of the Piedmont, Highlands, and Inner Coastal Plain. It is absent the Pine Barrens.

The species is a weedy perennial, spreading by seed and elongated tubers. The species is often visible in February before the leaves form, flowers in March after which it goes dormant until late autumn. It is often associated with forested wetlands, yet rich moist upland woodlands are suitable for this species as well.

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