



Fig Buttercup Fact Sheet

Invasive plant



Invasive fig buttercup

The fig buttercup (*Ficaria verna*) is a low, green plant with rubbery, heart-shaped leaves and 8 to 12 thin yellow petals. The plant forms many small bulbs, or bulblets, and quickly creates a thick carpet of plant material that chokes out native plants. It could quickly crowd out the native plants growing on Hillsborough's stream banks and along the Eno River. The fig buttercup blooms in February and early March, making these good months to identify and eradicate the plant. The fig buttercup is native to Europe, North Africa and West Asia. It can take over home lawns and plant beds. The plant's small bulbs easily wash downstream during heavy rain events.

The fig buttercup is sometimes confused with the native marsh marigold (*Caltha palustris*), which has round or kidney-shaped leaves, 5 to 9 yellow petals and no tubers or bulblets. It is also sometimes confused with celandine (*Chelidonium majus*) and celandine poppy (*Stylophorum diphyllum*). Both types of celandine have flowers with four petals.



Native marsh marigold

Removal efforts

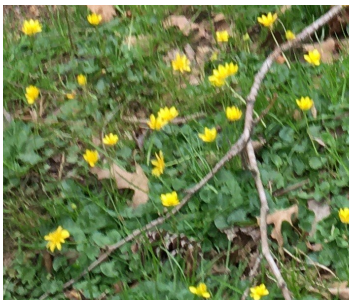


Fig buttercup rapidly spreads.

The Hillsborough Tree Board and the Public Space and Sustainability Division would like your help in preventing this invasive species from overrunning native plants in our community. The plant spreads bulblets rapidly when disturbed, so the board and division request that you not try to remove the plant yourself. Report it if you think you see it. Contact Administrative Support Specialist Lindsay Rhew at lindsay.rhew@hillsboroughnc.gov or 919-296-9600. Experienced volunteers will verify the plant's identify and remove it. They also will remove it from private land with a property owner's permission.

Other invasive plant removal efforts

The Town of Hillsborough's Public Space and Sustainability Division encourages and organizes volunteer efforts to remove certain native species from the town's public spaces. Contact Administrative Support Specialist Lindsay Rhew if you are interested in joining these efforts.