



Environment  
Agency

# Floating Pennywort (*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*)

## How was it introduced?

Native to North America, floating pennywort was introduced to the UK in the 1980s for use in tropical aquaria and garden ponds. It was first found wild in Essex in 1991.

---

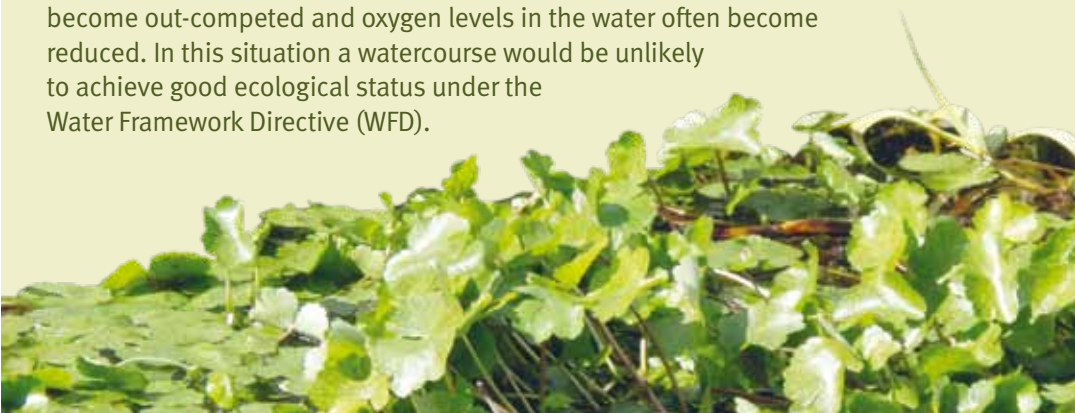
## Where is it found?

Floating pennywort grows in the margins of slow flowing watercourses and drains, forming dense mats of vegetation. These dense mats grow rapidly, up to 20cm per day and can grow up to 15m out from the bank in one season.

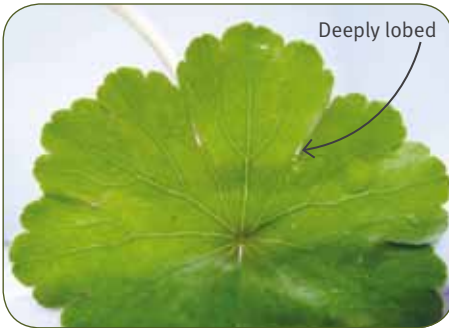
---

## What problems does it cause?

Fish and invertebrates suffer as a result of the rapid growth of floating pennywort. It can quickly dominate a watercourse impairing flows, native plant species can become out-competed and oxygen levels in the water often become reduced. In this situation a watercourse would be unlikely to achieve good ecological status under the Water Framework Directive (WFD).



## What does it look like?



Leaves can be floating or emergent, rising on fleshy stalks. The leaves are waxy, round to kidney shaped, deeply lobed with crinkled edges. Leaves can be up to 7cm across.



Floating pennywort has fine, hair-like roots and fleshy stems that sink up to 50cm under the water.

---

## What should I do?

If you find floating pennywort on a watercourse please note the location and report it to your local Environment Agency Office.

If you manage a watercourse that has an infestation of floating pennywort then please contact your local Environment Agency BASIS Registered Officer for advice on methods of control.

### Contacts

**Central Area**  
**Nina Fielding**  
(01480) 483838

**Eastern Area**  
**Rob Brown**  
(01473) 706753

**Northern Area**  
**Richard Chadd**  
(01522) 785538

For more information on the identification of floating pennywort see;  
<http://www.nonnativespecies.org>



**Environment first:** This publication is printed on paper made from 100 per cent previously used waste. By-products from making the pulp and paper are used for composting and fertiliser, for making cement and for generating energy.