

Moneywort (Creeping Jenny)

Invasive Plant Fact Sheet

DESCRIPTION

Moneywort (or Creeping Jenny) (*Lat. Lysimachia nummularia*) is a trailing, mat-forming, perennial with creeping stems that can grow up to 2 feet long and up to four inches high. The leaves are opposite and nearly rounded, resembling small coins, giving the plant its name.

The yellow flowers bloom from June to August, but in some years not at all. Flowers measure approximately one inch in width and may contain small red dots on the petals. Moneywort grows in full sun to full shade, usually in muddy soils along rivers, wet meadows, swamps, stream banks, and disturbed floodplains.

WHY IS IT BAD?

It spreads aggressively and outcompetes native plantings. It forms dense, impenetrable mats along shorelines and moist forest floors, crowding out native flora.

DISTRIBUTION & SPREAD

Large infestations give the landscape a yellowish tinge due to the yellow bracts. Spreading quickly, it can absorb a great deal of water nutrients from the soil. It is a major pest of national parks and nature preserves. It can completely overtake large areas of land and displace native vegetation.

CONTROL METHODS

Manual Removal: Uprooting moneywort can usually be accomplished by hand. For established plants, use a garden fork to loosen the soil around the plant and extract the root material. This may cause soil disturbances that trigger new weed growth. Regular monitoring of the site will help deplete the seed bank, allowing you to get ahead of the infestation.

Mowing: Mowing is never effective at controlling creeping jenny and may spread the plant when trimmings set root.

Smothering: Cover dense patches with heavy mulch/wood chips for at least one full growing season. The mulch can be covered with black or clear plastic sheeting, which should be reused or discarded after a successful suppression. Weed barriers that are left in place will break down over time, fail to suppress weeds, and pollute your soil.

Chemical: Carefully read the label; the label is the law. Systemic herbicides like glyphosate or broadleaf-selective triclopyr can be effective against heavy infestations when applied according to the product label. Apply only on calm, dry days during the spring or fall active growth phases. Consult a professional pesticide applicator for advice or management.



To learn more about invasives in Medford, scan the QR code or visit <https://bit.ly/02155Invasives>

PLANT DISPOSAL

Hand-pulled plants should either be burned or placed in sealed bags and disposed of in a municipal landfill. They should NOT be put with compost.

SURVEILLANCE:

Re-visit treated areas three times per season for at least five years to manage resprouts and emerging seedlings. Heavily infested areas may need to be monitored for up to a decade.



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Keep Medford Beautiful is a community effort initiated by Mayor Breanna Lungo-Koehn to organize local volunteers to help clean up and beautify the city's streets and public spaces.



Learn more about the work we're doing and ways to get involved at www.medfordma.org/KMB or scan the QR code.

