

Water Pennywort | *Hydrocotyle* spp.



Infestation of water pennywort and other species.



Water pennywort leaf and flower.



Mass of water pennywort and organic matter from shallow margins.

Water pennywort is a member of the carrot family (Apiaceae) and is commonly found growing adjacent to or floating as a mat on the surface of slow-moving and calm waters. It is typically less than a foot tall.

The **circular, slightly lobed leaves** are deep green, shiny, and leathery. There is a **pale dot in the middle where the stem attaches** on the leaf underside. **Faint veins radiate out from the center like spokes of a wheel.** Leaves can be up to 3 inches in diameter but are usually about the size of a silver dollar coin.

Stems are pale green to brownish white. These round stems are thick and spongy, allowing them to float on the water's surface. Short flower stalks can form on the horizontal stems, giving rise to a small cluster of pale flowers.

Management Value

Water pennywort seeds are occasionally eaten by ducks, and leaves and stems are eaten by some insects. However, it can form dense stands that interfere with recreational use, so it is not recommended for pond management.

Water Pennywort | *Hydrocotyle* spp.

Recommended Controls

Option 1: 2,4-D (3.8-pound formulation). For each gallon of water, mix 1.25 ounces 2,4-D and 1.3 ounces non-ionic surfactant. Spray to wet all plants. Do not exceed annual herbicide rate limits as stated on the product label.

Option 2: Glyphosate (5.4-pound formulation). For each gallon of water, mix 0.5 ounce glyphosate and 1.3 ounces non-ionic surfactant. Spray to wet all plants. Do not exceed annual herbicide rate limits as stated on the product label.

The best approach is to treat ponds with herbicide when the water temperature is at least 60°F and the plants are actively growing. Multiple applications may be necessary to achieve eradication.

■ Read and follow all chemical label instructions, especially the section on the use of personal protection equipment.

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