

Creeping buttercup

Ranunculus repens L

Buttercup Family

Key identifying traits

- ❑ Waxy yellow flowers with 5-9 petals
- ❑ Plants usually grow 6-12" tall but flower heads can extend to 24" on stems with few leaves
- ❑ Leaves are hairy with long petioles (leaf stems), are dark green & 3-parted with toothed margins
- ❑ Globe-shaped seed heads contain from 12-50 fruits each



Globe-shaped seed head

Biology and ecology

- A creeping perennial spreading by seeds as well as hairy stolons that form roots & daughter plants at lower nodes
- Prefers moist or poorly drained soils, but can colonize gravelly banks as well; withstands flooding
- It is toxic to livestock in pastures but not when dried in hay but is not generally utilized
- Introduced from Europe as an ornamental, now widely established in the U.S.
- Does not compete well with a good grass stand but can be aggressive in moist, overgrazed pastures, roadsides and waste areas



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Control

Prevention - Learn to identify plants; start monitoring early in the season

Biological - No known biological control in our area

Cultural - Plant competitive grass or other cover crop

Mechanical - Cultivation can be effective if repeated to prevent stem fragments from starting new plants; mowing is not a good control method

Chemical - MCPA is often recommended for control: refer to the [PNW Weed Management handbook](#) for specific chemical recommendations.



Where found - Scattered areas all across Stevens County including lawns and gardens as well as over grazed pastures and sub-irrigated ground