

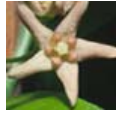


Invasive Plant Atlas of New England

Catalog of Species Search Results

Chelidonium majus

(Celandine)



[:: Catalog of Species Search](#)



[Common Name\(s\)](#) | [Full Scientific Name](#) | [Family Name Common](#) | [Family Scientific Name](#) | [Images](#) | [Synonyms](#) | [Description](#) | [Similar Species](#) | [Reproductive/Dispersal Mechanisms](#) | [Distribution](#) | [History of Introduction in New England](#) | [Habitats in New England](#) | [Threats](#) | [Early Warning Notes](#) | [Management Links](#) | [Documentation Needs](#) | [Additional Information](#) | [References](#) | [Data Retrieval](#) | [Maps of New England Plant Distribution](#)

COMMON NAME

Celandine

FULL SCIENTIFIC NAME

Chelidonium majus L.

FAMILY NAME COMMON

Poppy family

FAMILY SCIENTIFIC NAME

Papaveraceae

IMAGES



Basal rosette



Broken stem
with orange sap



Flowers



Habit



Incursion



Fruit

NOMENCLATURE/SYNONYMS

Synonyms: None

DESCRIPTION

Botanical Glossary

Chelidonium majus is a brittle, herbaceous biennial that reaches 30-80 cm (11-31 in.) in height. Its stems are ribbed and branching. The lower parts of the branches are pubescent. When the branches or leaves are broken a yellowish-orange sap can be seen. The alternate cauline leaves can be up to 35 cm (13 in.) in length, with petioles measuring 2-10 cm (0.75-4 in.) long. The thin leaf blades are glaucous beneath, deeply 5-9 lobed and are irregularly dentate around the margins. The veins of the lower leaf surfaces have fine, short hairs.

The bright yellow flowers of *Chelidonium majus* are contained in axillary pedunculate umbels. The peduncle itself measures 2-10 cm (0.75-4in.) long. Each flower has four obovate to oblong petals that measure about 1 cm (0.4in.) wide. This plant usually flowers from May to June. The "lumpy" capsules are linear to oblong-shaped and measure 2-5 cm (0.75-2 in.) in length. Within the capsule are black seeds with reticulate pitting on their surface.

Page References Bailey 428, Fernald 680, Flora of North America 302, Gleason and Cronquist 67, Holmgren 64, Magee & Ahles 526, Newcomb 142, Peterson & McKenny 130. See reference section below for full citations.

SIMILAR SPECIES

Glaucium flavum Crantz. (Yellow hornpoppy) [IPANE Catalog of Species Writeup](#)

Stylophorum diphyllum (Michx.) Nutt (Celandine poppy)* [Picture of *S. diphyllum*](#)

Cardamine impatiens L. (Bushy rock-cress)**

**Stylophorum diphyllum* is non-native to New England (it is native further south), but is often cultivated.

**The basal rosettes of *Cardamine impatiens* could be confused for *Chelidonium majus*. The leaves of *Chelidonium majus* are pubescent, while those of *Cardamine impatiens* are glabrous.

Character	<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	<i>Glaucium flavum</i>	<i>Stylophorum diphyllum</i>
Leaves	Hairy	Hairy	Not hairy
Flower size	Petals 1cm (0.4in.)	5-9cm wide (2-3.5in.)	Petals 2-3cm (0.75-1.2in.)
Fruit Shape	Linear-oblong	Sublinear	Ellipsoid

Fruit Size	2-5cm (0.75-2in.)	15-30cm (6-12in.)	2-3cm (0.75-1.2in.)
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REPRODUCTIVE/DISPERSAL MECHANISMS

The seeds of this plant are ant-dispersed. This movement is facilitated by an elaiosome on the seed which attracts the ants so that they move it.

DISTRIBUTION

Chelidonium majus is native to Eurasia from Spain to Turkey and Russia, north to Great Britain and Ireland and south to North Africa. In the United States it is located from Maine to Georgia and west to Minnesota, Iowa and Missouri. There are also reports of it in Washington, Montana and Utah. This plant has been reported from all the states of New England.

HISTORY OF INTRODUCTION IN NEW ENGLAND

Chelidonium majus was most likely introduced into New England as an herbal remedy for skin diseases. It was reported to be in New England herb gardens as early as 1672. From these gardens the plant became naturalized and spread across the landscape.

HABITATS IN NEW ENGLAND

Early Successional Forest
Edge
Floodplain Forest
Open Disturbed Area
Roadside
Vacant Lot
Wet Meadow
Yard or Garden

Chelidonium majus is most often found in disturbed areas especially with moist soil. Conceivably its seeds could be moved to other habitats by ants.

THREATS

Chelidonium majus can become abundant in minimally managed situations, and can outcompete other native herbaceous plants.

DOCUMENTATION NEEDS

Documentation required: Habit shot with fruits or flowers
Best time for documentation: Spring, summer

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Integrated Taxonomic Information System](#)

Taxonomic information about the species

[PLANTS Database](#)

General information and map

[Flora of North America](#)

Extensive description and distribution information

[Wisconsin State Herbarium](#)

Images

[Image from a Sampler of Wayside Herbs](#)

Image and description of historical herbal uses of the plant

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LA 70874-4490 USA.

DATA RETRIEVAL

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MAPS OF PLANT DISTRIBUTION IN NEW ENGLAND

Select a study area by clicking the radio button and then click "Submit Selection."

- The whole New England area
- One or more states
- One or more counties
- One or more towns (county sub-divisions)

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