



Moneywort

Lysimachia nummularia L.

Common Names: moneywort, creeping Jenny, creeping Charlie, creeping Joan, running Jenny, wandering Jenny, wandering sailor

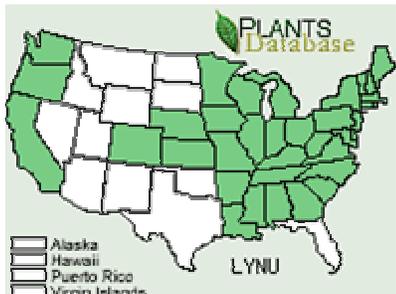
Native Origin: Introduced from Europe and southwest Asia for horticulture as an ornamental ground cover.



Description: An herbaceous, low-growing, perennial plant in the primrose family (Primulaceae), with evergreen to semi-evergreen foliage. The smooth creeping stems can grow up to 2 feet long and 2-4 inches in height and branch frequently to form a mat-like growth. Leaves are opposite, simple and broadly ovate ¼ to 1 ½ inches long. The broadly oval leaves, which are obtuse at both ends, resemble small coins and give the plant its name. The flowers are solitary in the leaf axils and have pedicels that are about the same length as the leaves. They are yellow with small dark red spots, blooming from June to August, but often do not flower at all. The small seeds are borne in capsular fruits that are roughly as long as its sepals. In riparian areas, seeds are likely dispersed by flood waters. The extent to which seeds are dispersed by animals is not fully known, but some transport seems likely. It also spreads vegetatively by creeping stems.

Habitat: It can be found in a variety of different habitat types; however, it grows most vigorously and poses the biggest threat in moist areas such as wet meadows, swamps, floodplain forests, stream banks, bottoms, ditches, roadsides and along the banks of small water bodies. It prefers moist, rich, shaded soils.

Distribution: It is found throughout the eastern United States with the exception of Florida. It also is found in Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado and the three west coast states.



Ecological Impacts: Little is known about the direct ecological impact of moneywort, but there is concern that the dense mats may be precluding the establishment of more desirable native plant species. Consequently, many states list moneywort as invasive. Moneywort is presently widely distributed, and continues to expand into new areas. The extent to which moneywort helps stabilize alluvial soils is not known, but this topic is



worth exploring.

Control and Management: Stop planting, manage existing infestations, minimize disturbance to forests, wetlands, and other natural communities

- **Manual-** The plant can be hand pulled where practical. All stems and stem fragments should be removed from the area to prevent the stems from rooting again in the soil. Prolonged submergence will kill moneywort. At restoration sites, moneywort can be controlled by establishing native grasses to shade it out. Mowing is not effective since moneywort adheres closely to the ground due to its many rooting nodes.
- **Chemical-** Several herbicides are effective in controlling moneywort. Because moneywort usually grows in or near wetlands, be sure that the herbicide is approved for use in wetlands. Rodeo is one such herbicide product that may be effective. Check label directions and state requirements.

References: <http://plants.usda.gov>, www.missouriplants.com, Illinois Nature Preserves Commission - www.inhs.uiuc.edu/chf/outreach/VMG/moneywort.html, www.invasive.org, www.botany.wisc.edu/wisflora/scripts/detail.asp?SpCode=LYSNUM, <http://aggiehorticulture.tamu.edu>, Invasive Plant Council of New England- <http://webapps.lib.uconn.edu/ipane/browsing.cfm?descriptionid=106>