



## Invasive Species of the Month for June 2018

### Moneywort (*Lysimachia nummularia*)

**Origin:** Europe and Southwest Asia

**Interesting Fact:** Moneywort was introduced to the US a long time ago, 1739 to be exact. It is still frequently sold as a groundcover, either the true to type species and a yellow foliage cultivar.

**Description:** Moneywort is a perennial, herbaceous, vining groundcover in the Primrose Family. It has opposite leaves and noticeable yellow axillary flowers that bloom in late spring to late summer.

**Defining characteristics:**

- Orbicular, opposite leaves of varying sizes and shapes (generally glossy) with small black dots
- Five petaled (rarely six petaled), yellow flowers occurring occasionally at the leaf axils with red dots
- Sprawling vine as groundcover (does not climb)

**Botanical Terminology:**

*Axillary* – occurring in where the leaf meets the stem

*Cultivar* – a nursery term for a cultivated variety

*Herbaceous* – not woody

*Orbicular* – circular, orb-like leaf shape



Left Image: Yellow flowers of Moneywort.



Right Image: Orbicular to elongated oval, opposite leaves of Moneywort (red circle notes the orb shape).

**Habitat:** Woodland edges, ditches, wetlands, wet prairies, etc.



Above Image: A dense patch of Moneywort in Knox County.

**Ecological threat:** Moneywort does not spread much by way of seed. However, it can produce new roots at the leaf axils, thus allowing it to sprawl and form dense groundcover.

**Control Methods:**

- Manual: Pulling is not recommended on large dense patches as Moneywort can resprout from stem fragments and potentially roots as well. Careful digging out individuals can work on small patches.
- Chemical: Herbicide control of Moneywort is recommended; however, there are not many studies of herbicide efficacy. Foliar application\* of glyphosate or aquatic safe glyphosate could be effective, if applied when Moneywort is actively growing. Addition of a surfactant probably will improve control (however, do not use surfactants near an aquatic area).

\*Always follow herbicide label instructions.

**References**

- Hilty, John. "Moneywort." *Illinois Wildflowers*, 20 Dec. 2017.  
<http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/weeds/plants/moneywort.htm>. Accessed 7 June 2018.
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<https://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/forb/lysnum/all.html> [2018, June 18].
- Kaufman, Sylvan R. and Wallace Kaufman. *Invasive Plants*. Stackpole Books, 2012.