

# Ludwigia repens

## COMMON NAME

Red Ludwigia

## FAMILY

Onagraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Ludwigia repens* Red Ludwigia

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

A wetland or aquatic, and sometimes submerged perennial species. The slender stems are often reddish when submerged, and may be creeping, floating or prostrate and rooting at the nodes. The flowers have four yellow petals and are stalkless at the base of leaf pairs. Leaves are glossy, oval and occur in opposite pairs.

## DISTRIBUTION

Only known from one site at Western Springs, Auckland, but a common plant in the aquarium trade.

## HABITAT

Still and slow flowing shallow water bodies

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

up to 3 cm long. branched stems ascending or floating procumbent, rooting freely at the nodes. Glossy broadly lanceolate-elliptic to suborbicular leaves opposite, usually green above and purplish below, up to 4.5 cm long and 2.5 cm wide, base tapering into a petiole 5–25 mm long. Flowers axillary, paired, sepals 4, triangular. Petals 4, yellow, 1–3 mm long. Stamens 4. Fruit oblong, corners rounded to barely angled, 5–7 mm long, c. 2.5 mm wide

## SIMILAR TAXA

*Ludwigia palustris* is very similar with opposite leaves and creeping habit, but can be distinguished by the green flowers lacking petals *Ludwigia peploides* subsp. *montevidensis* and alligator weed (*Alternanthera philoxeroides*). Alligator weed also has opposite leaves, and *L. peploides* subsp. *montevidensis* has yellow flowers and alternate leaves.

## FLOWERING

January to April

## FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

## LIFE CYCLE

Unknown whether seed is produced in NZ, spread by stem fragmentation

## YEAR NATURALISED

2008

## ORIGIN

Native of southern USA, Mexico and the Caribbean.

## REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental aquarium and pond plant.



## CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Not controlled in New Zealand.

## ETYMOLOGY

**repens:** From Latin repere meaning to creep, means creeping

## ATTRIBUTION

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA).

## REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

New South Wales Flora Online (<http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/>)

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/ludwigia-repens/>