Washington Invasive Ranking System

Washington Natural Heritage Program

Lysimachia nummularia (Creeping Jenny)

Assessed by
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3 January 2024 (WIRS Version 1.5)

Ecological Impact Rank: **Low** (48) Confidence: **Moderate** (42)

Management Difficulty Rank: Low (44)	Confidence: Low (20)
Biological Characteristics of Invasiveness: High (71)	Confidence: Moderate (38)
Concern Related to Distribution and Abundance: Moderate (67)	Confidence: Moderate (40)

Photo Credit: Gabriel Campbell 2024, used under Creative Commons license (CalPhotos, 2024).

Ranking Notes

Rapid assessment only, based primarily on professional expertise.

Legal Listings

Washington State Weed Board: Monitor list

Washington Invasive Species Council: No

Section 1: Distribution and Abundance

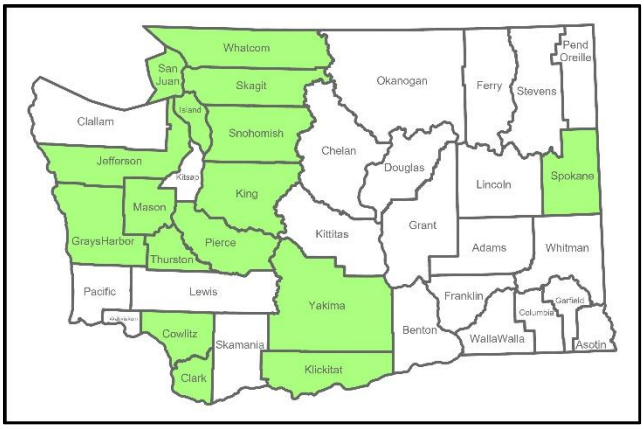

Figure 1. Distribution of counties where *Lysimachia nummularia* has been documented in Washington State (CPNWH, 2023; EDDMapS, 2023; iNaturalist Contributors, 2023).

Q1: Current Range Size in Washington

Rating: Moderate

Confidence: High

Lysimachia nummularia is present in 41% of counties in Washington (CPNWH, 2023; EDDMapS, 2023; iNaturalist Contributors, 2023).

Source: Herbarium records and other observations

Q2: Current Trend in Total Range

Rating: Not Rated

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Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

Q3: Proportion of Potential Range Currently Unoccupied

Rating: Moderate

Confidence: Low

Lysimachia nummularia is present in 41% of counties in Washington, and unoccupied available habitat likely still exists in the state (CPNWH, 2023; EDDMapS, 2023; iNaturalist Contributors, 2023).

Source: Herbarium records and other observations

Q4: Local Range Expansion or Change in Abundance

Rating: Not Rated

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

Q5: Diversity of Ecosystems Invaded

Ecosystem types: Emergent Open Wetland, Bog & Fen, Forested Wetland

Rating: Moderate

Confidence: High

This species is primarily found in wetlands (including fens) and is often abundant on freshwater mudflats. It may establish in mesic upland ecosystems but is typically more incidental in those settings.

Source: Professional expertise

Section 2: Biological Characteristics

Q6: Aggressive Mode of Reproduction

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

Lysimachia nummularia plants in North America are not known to produce seed (Cao & Berent, 2025), instead reproducing vegetatively via plant fragments (MISIN, 2024). Horizontal stems typically root at the nodes.

Source: Informal publication, Professional expertise

Q7: Innate Potential for Long-Distance Dispersal

Rating: Unknown

Confidence: Not Rated

Plant fragments may be dispersed by water, but the degree to which this occurs is not known.

Source: Professional expertise

Q8: Potential to be Spread by Human Activities

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

Deliberate release of plants grown as ornamentals is thought to be common.

Source: Professional expertise

Q9: Allelopathy

Rating: Not Rated

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

Q10: Competitive for Limiting Abiotic Factors

Rating: Not Rated

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

Q11: Growth Form

Rating: No

Confidence: Low

Forms dense low mats that are capable of excluding native species, but this may be restricted to mudflats and other early successional ecosystems.

Source: Professional expertise

Q12: Germination Requirements

Rating: Not Rated

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

Q13: Invasiveness of Other Plants in Genus

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

Lysimachia vulgaris and *L. terrestris* are frequently considered invasive.

Source: Professional expertise

Q14: Shade Tolerance

Rating: High

Confidence: Moderate

Lysimachia nummularia reportedly grows in a range of light conditions from full shade to full sun (Innes, 2011).

Source: Informal publication

Q15: Disturbance Tolerance

Rating: Not Rated

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

Q16: Propagule Persistence

Rating: <5 years

Confidence: Moderate

This plant rarely, if ever, seeds in North America (MISIN, 2024), but the longevity of vegetative fragments is not known.

Source: Informal publication

Q17: Palatability

Rating: Yes, plant is unpalatable

Confidence: Moderate

Secondary compounds produced by *Lysimachia nummularia* make it unpalatable to many herbivorous mammals (Hilty, John, 2019).

Source: Informal publication

Section 3: Ecological Impact

Q18: Impact on Ecosystem Abiotic Processes

Abiotic Processes: None listed

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: Low

Source: Professional expertise

Q19: Impact on Ecosystem Structure

Rating: Low

Confidence: Moderate

This species forms a trailing mat that likely excludes many other plants, but rarely impacts ecosystems over large areas (NPSO Emerald Chapter, 2008).

Source: Informal publication, Professional expertise

Q20: Impact on Ecosystem Composition

Rating: Moderate

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

Q21: Impact on Particular Native Species

Rating: Unknown

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

Q22: Observed Ability to Invade Undisturbed Ecosystems

Rating: Moderate

Confidence: Moderate

This plant can establish and survive in late-successional ecosystems of a variety of disturbance regimes (Innes, 2011), but likely requires at least minor, one-time soil disturbance to become established.

Source: Informal publication, Professional expertise

Q23: Observed Ability to Invade Naturally Disturbed Ecosystems

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Section 4: Management Difficulty

Q24: General Management Difficulty

Rating: Not Rated

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

Q25: Minimum Time Commitment

Rating: Not Rated

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

Q26: Impacts of Management on Native Species

Rating: Unknown

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

Q27: Inaccessibility of Invaded Areas

Rating: Low

Confidence: Low

Populations on freshwater mudflats may be difficult to access.

Source: Professional expertise

Q28: Sociopolitical Implications of Management

Rating: Moderate/Low

Confidence: High

This species is widely sold as an ornamental, but any objections to control are likely to be limited to highly visible populations.

Source: Professional expertise

Additional Comments

None

References

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