

# Fringed Water Lily

Scan for more information



## Species Description

**Scientific name:** *Nymphoides peltata*, *N. nymphoides*, *Limnanthemum peltatum*

**AKA:** Floating heart, yellow floating-heart, Entire marshwort

**Native to:** Eurasia (including England) and Mediterranean

**Habitat:** Slow moving rivers, lakes, reservoirs, ponds, ditches and canals. Can also grow in damp mud and wetlands.

*N. peltata* is an aquatic, bottom-rooted perennial plant with round floating leaves and yellow flowers raised above the water's surface. Long branched stolons (extending up to 1m or more) lie just beneath the water's surface. The node on the stolons typically produces a plant and many thread-like roots. Leaves are heart-like to almost circular in shape and are attached to underwater rhizomes. The flowers are bright yellow and are held above the water surface on peduncles (stems). The flower edges are distinctively fringed giving the common name of fringed water lily. Generally flowers from July to September.

*N. peltata* is a popular garden plant, releases and escapes from the horticulture trade is the most likely pathway for new introductions.

*N. peltata* can grow reproduce both vegetatively and sexually. Where established it can displace native species, reduce biodiversity, limit recreation, diminish aesthetic value and decrease water quality and flow.

***N. peltata* is listed under Schedule 9 of The Wildlife (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 and as such, it is an offence to release or allow this species to escape into the wild.**

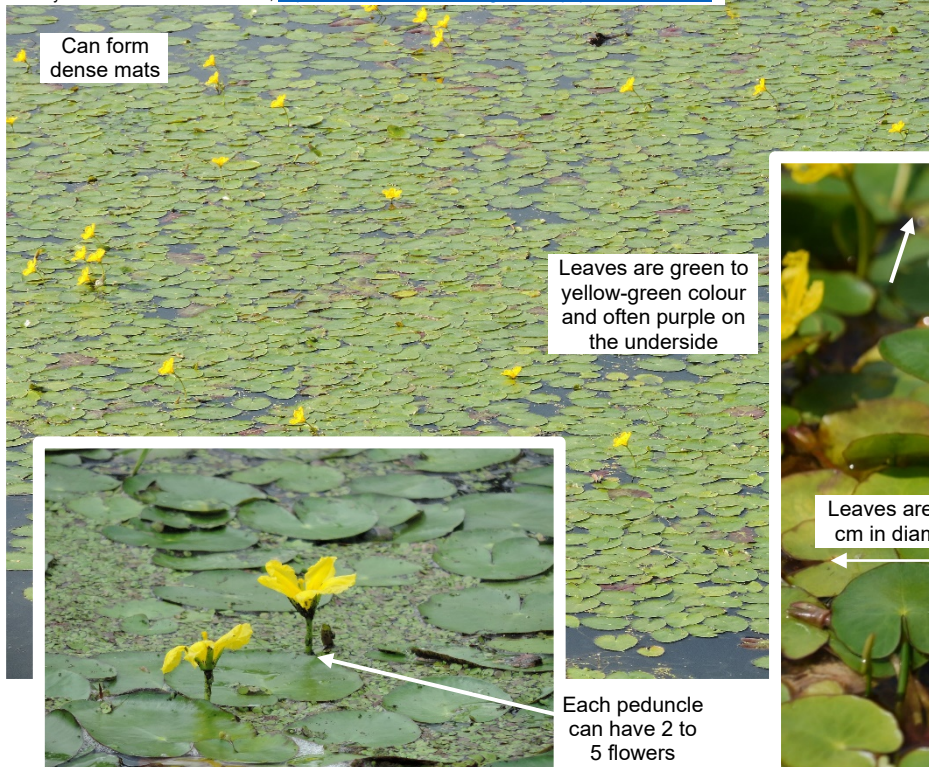


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## Key ID Features

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Can form dense mats

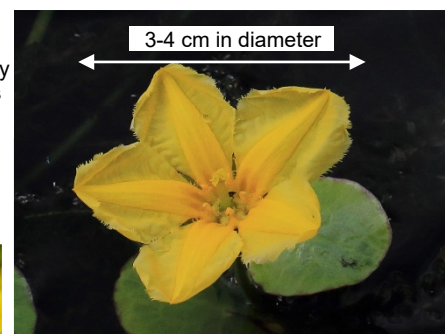


Leaves are green to yellow-green colour and often purple on the underside

Each peduncle can have 2 to 5 flowers

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Flowers are bright yellow with 5 distinctly fringed petals



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Leaves are 3-10 cm in diameter



Circular to slightly heart shaped floating leaves on long stalks that attach to underwater rhizomes

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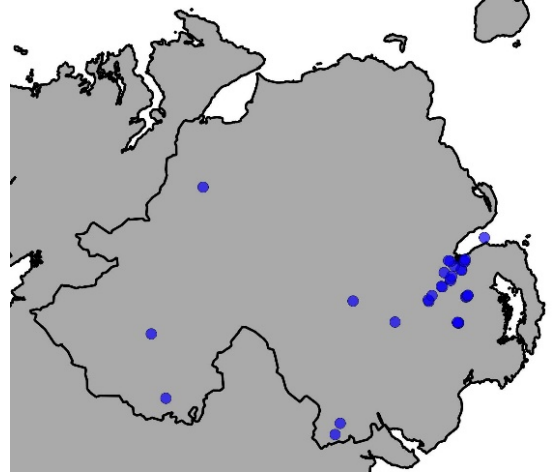
Report any sightings via; CEDaR Online Recording - <https://www2.habitas.org.uk/records/ISI>, iRecord app or Invasive Species Northern Ireland website - <http://invasivespeciesni.co.uk/report-sighting>

# Identification throughout the year

Yellow flower generally visible from June to September. During winter the above surface biomass dies back and sinks to the substrate. The plant overwinters as dormant tuberous rhizomes.

# Distribution

Present in a number of sites in Northern Ireland.

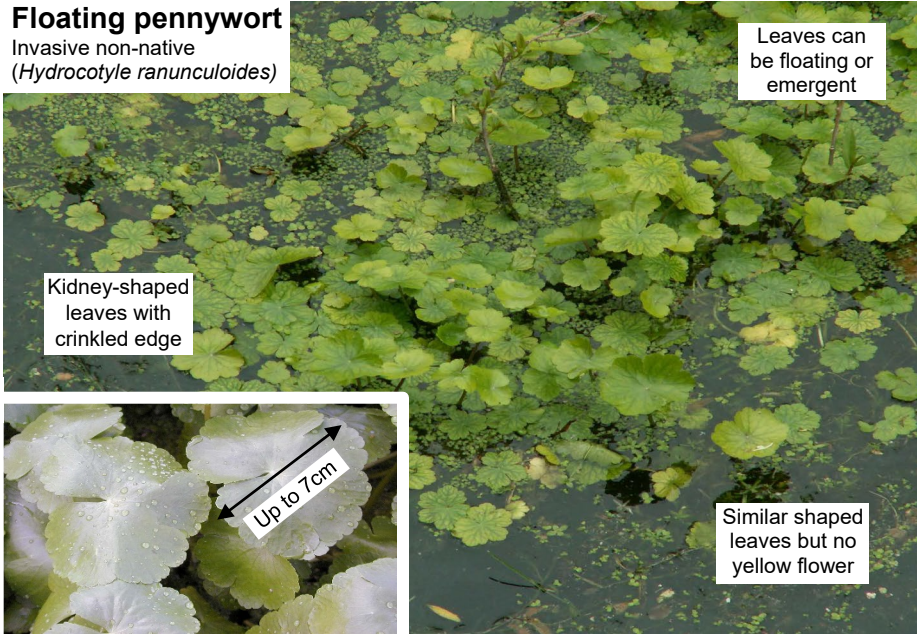


Source NBN atlas Northern Ireland - <https://northernireland-species.nbnatlas.org/species/NBNSYS0000003977>  
Check website for current distribution

# Similar Species

## Floating pennywort

Invasive non-native  
(*Hydrocotyle ranunculoides*)



Leaves can be floating or emergent

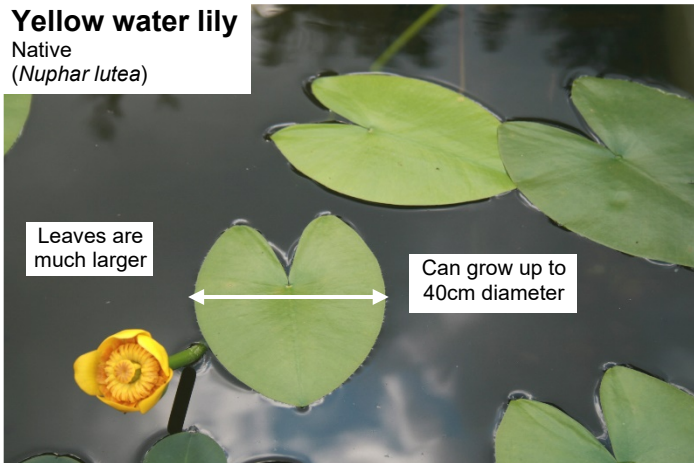
Kidney-shaped leaves with crinkled edge



Similar shaped leaves but no yellow flower

## Yellow water lily

Native  
(*Nuphar lutea*)



Leaves are much larger

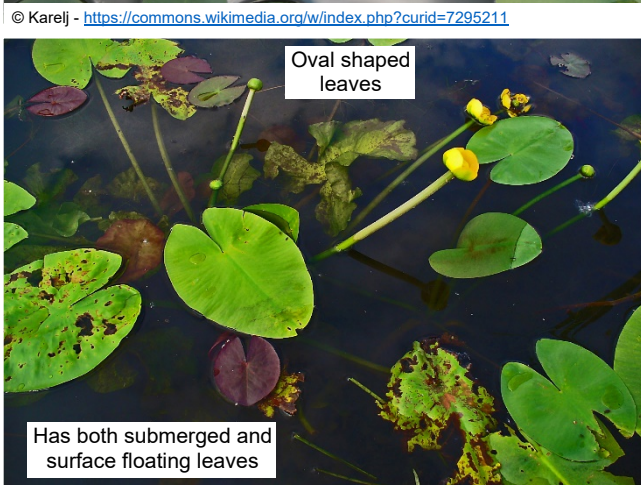
Can grow up to 40cm diameter



Yellow flowers 12 – 40mm in length

Petals not fringed

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Oval shaped leaves

Has both submerged and surface floating leaves



Flowers June - September

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### References and further reading:

CADI *Nymphoides peltata* (yellow floating-heart) datasheet - <https://www.cabi.org/isc/datasheet/107746>

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