



Pennywort (*Hydrocotyle*) and Mechanical Harvesting

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Overview: The common name of Pennywort likely comes from the circular resemblance of the plant to a penny. Unlike many of the aquatic invasive plants, Pennywort is indigenous to the Americas, but an invasive plant in Europe.

Description: Usually under 25 cm (10”) in height with leaf petioles connecting the stem to the leaf center. The leaves are round with tooth margins up to 6 to 7 cm (2.5 “). Small white or green flowers emerge from a separate portion of the stalk. The plant forms an “umbel” stalk, which are small flower clusters. Leaves lack trichomes (hairs) with short leaf stipules. This native plant is sold as an aquatic ornamental addition to a garden. Pennywort reproduces by seed and asexually by fragmentation. Most plants grow from spring to summer. Daily growth of *Hydrocotyle* stems is up to 20 cm/day (8”) and may extend 15m (close to 50’) in a season.

Habitat: Pennywort is common in shallow shorelines, ditches, and pond edges. The plant forms mats and can slow water flow causing stagnant water.

Possible Uses: Pennywort provides habitat for invertebrates and is sometimes used by ducks and other waterfowl.

Treatment: Since Pennywort is a native, removal of the excess nuisance plants may be regulated. If there are no restrictions on the removal of the plant, the **WEEDOO^{INC}** harvester can be used to remove excess plant growth. Pennywort has a strong creeping stem system and the plants are just above the water; therefore

optimal treatment would require shallow harvesting. Because of the fast growth rate, harvesting should be conducted two or more times in a warm season.



Photos from Open Source University Cooperative Extension



University of California

References

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