

marsh buttercup *Ranunculus septentrionalis*

Kingdom: Plantae

Division/Phylum: Magnoliophyta

Class: Magnoliopsida

Order: Ranunculales

Family: Ranunculaceae

ILLINOIS STATUS common, native

FEATURES

The marsh buttercup is a perennial herb. Its stems may be upright or along the ground. Stems are branched, smooth and up to two feet long. Arranged alternately along the stem, the leaves are usually divided into three segments that may be further divided and toothed. The yellow, waxy flowers, up to one and one-half inches wide, are found at the tip of the stems. The single, dry seeds are grouped in a "cone." Each seed is flat with a beak.

BEHAVIORS

The marsh buttercup grows in moist woods, marshes and swamps. This plant flowers from April through June and often in autumn. The fruits provide a good source of food for waterfowl.

HABITATS

Aquatic Habitats

bottomland forests; marshes; swamps

Woodland Habitats

bottomland forests

Prairie and Edge Habitats

none

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