

Buttercup, Bulbous

[*Ranunculus bulbosus* L.]

DESCRIPTION

Two of the common buttercups found in North Carolina are hairy buttercup and bulbous buttercup. Hairy buttercup appears to be predominant in the Piedmont and mountain regions, while bulbous buttercup is readily found in the Piedmont and Coastal Plain regions. Vegetative characteristics of bulbous buttercup are similar to those of hairy buttercup except for the bulb-like swelling at the base of the stem. This swelling is roundish and white, slightly flattened at the top and bottom. Smallflower buttercup is also found in North Carolina. Whereas bulbous and hairy buttercup have lobed leaves, most of the lower leaves of smallflower buttercup are unlobed.



Characteristic	Description
Growth Season	winter annual or perennial weed
Growth Habit	upright; more prostrate in mowed turf situations; rosette
Leaflet Number	one
Leaf Margin	divided into three lobes
Leaf Hairs	dense hairs on upper surface
Leaf/Leaflet Shape	oval/egg-shaped/elliptical
Leaf Width	1/2 - 2 inches
Leaf Venation	palmate
Leaf Arrangement	alternate
Root Type	bulbous
Flower Color	yellow



bulbous buttercup, underside of leaf



bulbous buttercup roots

Note: Still not sure this is the right weed? [The Turf & Weed Identification Decision Aid](#) may help. Check the TurfFiles [glossary](#) for definitions of unfamiliar terms.

CULTURAL CONTROL

Perennial broadleaf turf weeds are capable of living more than two years. They thrive in weak, thin turf; golf fairways and roughs; home lawns; playfields; and industrial grounds. Proper turf maintenance is the key to control of this weed. First, select adapted turfgrass cultivars for your area and then properly fertilize, mow, and water to encourage dense growth.

CHEMICAL CONTROL

Bulbous buttercup can be controlled with two, three, and four way broadleaf herbicides in the fall or spring.

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