

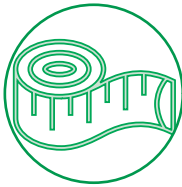
Creeping Buttercup

Habitat Hero



Common Name: Creeping Buttercup
Irish Name: Fearbán
Scientific Name: *Ranunculus repens*

Seen in Ireland:
 Flowers: May to August



Creeping buttercup is a small yellow flower with 5 shiny petals. It has hairy leaves which are divided into 3 lobes.



Creeping buttercup is extremely common and widespread in Ireland. It is often seen in meadows, gardens, parks, school grounds and anywhere else grass is growing! As its name suggests it can spread quickly and is often considered a weed.

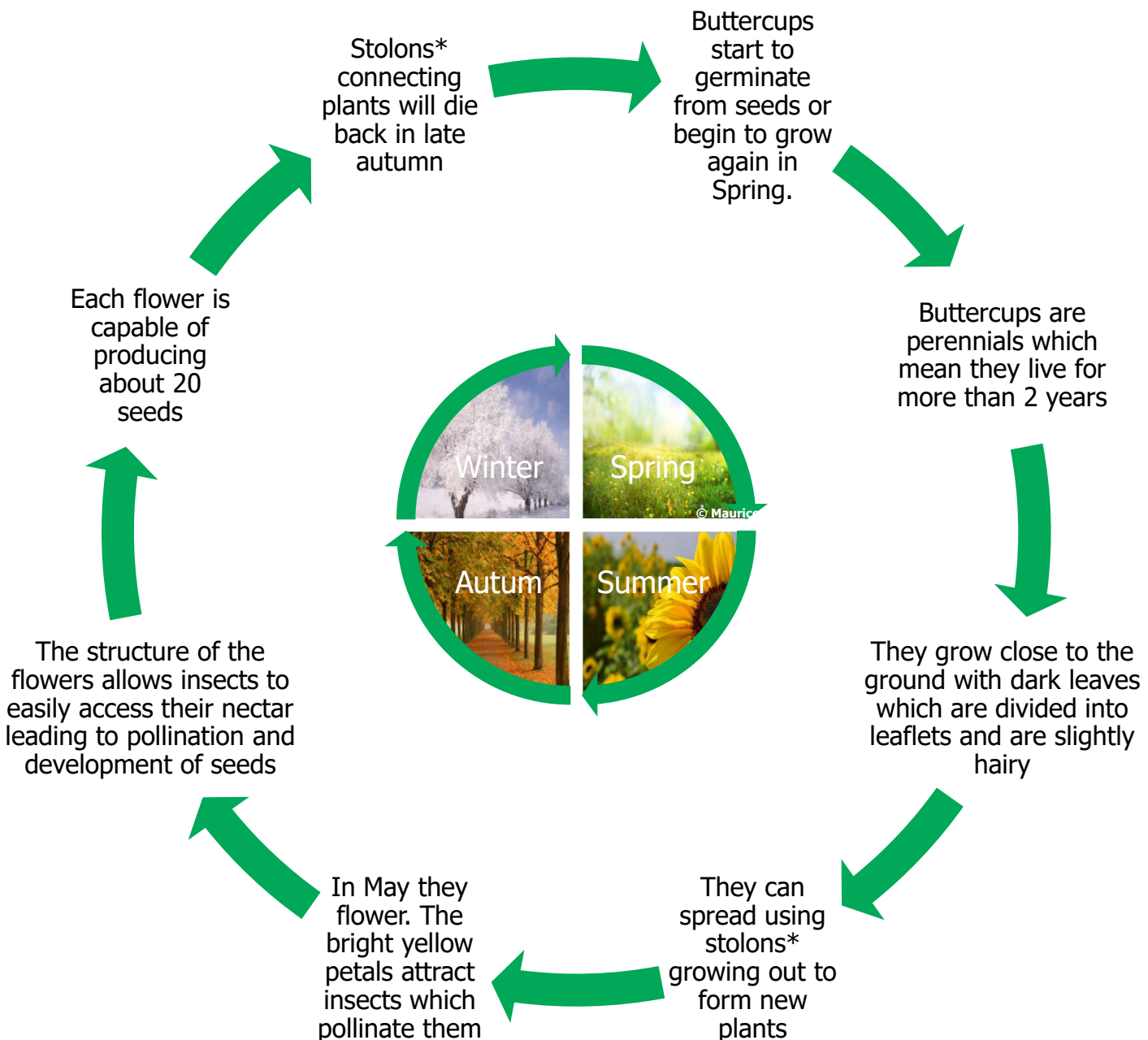


Creeping buttercup is happy in a wide range of soils but grows best on wet, heavy land and in hollows. Photosynthesis is the process in which green plants use sunlight to make their own food.



It is a perennial plant (lives for more than 2 years) which flowers between May and August. Seeds can survive in the soil for many years before germinating in favourable conditions

Creeping Buttercup Life Cycle



***Stolons are branches which grow from existing plants and then create roots to form new plants.**

Creeping Buttercup

Some more Facts:

- Creeping buttercup is a small yellow flower with 5 shiny petals.
- It is a perennial plant (lives for more than 2 years) which flowers between May and August.
- Unlike other members of its family, it has a root system which spreads rapidly underground.
- In early summer, May they flower. The bright yellow petals attract insects which pollinate them.
- Seeds are formed with each flower capable of producing about 20 seeds. Seeds are small and can be dispersed by the wind or by animals (by becoming attached to their fur)
- Many consider buttercups a weed but what is a weed?
- A weed is a name given to any plant that is growing somewhere it is isn't wanted or was not specifically planted by a human. Plants such as buttercups, dandelions and thistles are often considered weeds, but all have a role to play in nature.
- Buttercups are a food source for a variety of animals. Insects such as bees, butterflies and hoverflies will feed on their nectar and pollen. Grazing animals such as rabbits and deer may eat the flower and leaves.
- This can be toxic to some grazing animals if eaten in large quantities. This includes cattle and sheep.
- The seeds are also eaten by a variety of birds including woodpigeons.
- Buttercups can have a negative effect on other plants. Creeping buttercups can quickly spread and take over an area, leaving little room and resources for other plants.
- There are two other members of the buttercup family commonly found in Ireland: meadow buttercup and bulbous buttercup. All three look very similar with yellow flowers but with small differences in shape and leaves. They are easy to get mixed up, but all are buttercups!
- Seed dispersal is the way that seeds get moved away from the plant they grew on to possibly end up somewhere they can grow into a new plant themselves. Often the wind or animals help this to happen.

