

## INVASIVE OF THE MONTH

### ***Control this pest with less water and less mowing***

*From Brodhead Watershed Association*



*Photo cutline: Pennywort is also known as dollarweed.*

The Internet is awash with “benefits” of pennywort, aka dollarweed. A quick search turns up everything from improving memory, curing acne, and healing scars to curing heat rashes and arthritis, reducing stress and blood pressure, and moisturizing skin.

When something cures everything, can it really cure anything? In your lawn, it’s definitely a pain in the neck.

Lawn pennywort is a low-growing perennial with bright-green, round leaves about one inch in diameter with wavy edges. It looks a bit like a miniature lily pad and has tiny white flowers in July and August. The creeping stems root easily in moist soil, forming dense mats that crowd out grass and other plants.

### **ERADICATING PENNYWORT**

Pennywort prefers moist, shady lawns. If you have just a few invaders, you can pull them out — be sure to get every bit of the underground runners. Or you can spot-spray with a commercial herbicide.

For bigger infestations and effective, long-term control, mow high. Keeping grass between 3 and 4 inches encourages strong growth which helps crowd out pennywort. Also, water your lawn less – no more than 1 inch a week from rain and watering combined. Drier soil weakens the pest while encouraging grass to develop deeper, stronger roots.

Even better, shrink your lawn. Give part of it over to native meadow flowers (picture daisies, black-eyed susans, milkweed, and goldenrod) and elegant native grasses like little bluestem. Butterflies and other pollinators will thank you. Or start a grove of native trees to provide food and cover for birds and other creatures — serviceberry, white oak, hawthorn, and black gum, for instance. You’ll be doing your part to slow climate change. And you’ll spend less time, money and chemicals on the lawn!

*More on invasive plants can be found at [brodheadwatershed.org/invasive-species-management-plan/](http://brodheadwatershed.org/invasive-species-management-plan/)*

