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News: Ludwigia Peruviana

## Ludwigia Peruviana

- Ludwigia Peruviana, with the common names Peruvian primrose-willow or Peruvian water primrose, is an aquatic, sometimes deciduous species of flowering plant in the evening primrose family.
- It can grow to approximately 12 feet in height. While native to Peru, it has been introduced in many other countries for its attractive simple yellow flowers; it is now a common weed in swampy areas around the world.
- The Peruvian primrose-willow forms dense colonies along the shore, then creeps into the water where it impedes navigation, damages structures, and competes with native vegetation.
- This species is classified as a category I invasive species by the United States state of Florida, where it clogs numerous lakes and rivers, and as a noxious weed by the government of Australia.
- It is also considered as an Invasive Alien Species in India.
- Recently, they have been found in abundant numbers in Valparai, a hill station bordering Kerala and Tamil Nadu, reviving the human – elephant conflicts. The

Invasive Alien Species has infested the majority of the hill station's swamps, locally known as vayals, where elephants used to find lush grass even in the summer.

- The rapid large scale spread of the weed, which was probably introduced as an ornamental plant for its tiny yellow flowers, has shaken the balance of these perennial foraging grounds, limiting the growth of grass and native plants that are palatable to elephants and animals including gaur.