



PENNYWORT (Hydrocotyl spp.)

By Steve Batten

Pennywort (Dollarweed) can be found in low wet areas along the Southern Coastal States of the United States and Tropical America. Several species have also been found in South Africa. It can be easily recognized by its peltate flat leaf with the stem connected to the middle.

It is a member of the carrot family which also includes Marsh Parsley, Water-Hemlock, and Bishop's Weed. There are three species common to Florida, according to Dr. David Hall, University of Florida. These include *Hydrocotyle unbellatus* (Water Pennywort), *H. bonariensis* (Coastal Plain Pennywort), and *H. verticillata* (Whirled Pennywort). All three species are so similar in appearance that without the flower spike most people cannot tell the difference.

Besides air born seeds, Pennywort can spread by means of rhizomes or creeping stems and reproduce from stems and pieces. It's creeping habit enables it to withstand low mowing heights common to golf course greens. Therefore it can be difficult to control. Most herbicide recommendations include combinations of 2,4-D + Dicamba. Multiple applications are usually necessary for control at bi-weekly intervals. ■