## Plant Propagation Protocol for Lysimachia terrestris

## ESRM 412 – Native Plant Production

| TAXONOMY   |   |
|--|---|
| Plant Family                                     |   |
| Scientific Name                                  | Primulaceae   |
| Common Name                                      | Primrose family   |
| Species Scientific Nar                           | me  |
| Scientific Name                                  | Lysimachia terrestris (L.) Britton, Sterns & Poggenb.   |
| Varieties <sup>1</sup>                           | None  |
| Sub-species                                      | None  |
| Cultivar   | None  |
| Common<br>Synonym(s)                             | Viscum terrestre Linnaeus, Lysimachia bulbifera Curtis, L. racemosa Lamarck, L. stricta Aiton, L. terrestris var. ovata (E. L. Rand & Redfield) Fernald. <sup>1</sup> |
| Common Name(s)                                   | Earth loosestrife, Swamp candles, bog or bulblet loosestrife, lysimaque terrestre   |
| Species Code (as per<br>USDA Plants<br>database) | LYTE2   |
| GENERAL INFO                                     | RMATION   |
| Geographical range <sup>2</sup>                  | Native Introduced Both Native No County Data Introduced No County Data  |
|  | Native, No County Data Introduced, No County Data Both, No County Data  |
|  | Lysimachia terrestris has been introduced in cranberry bogs and is occasionally   |
|  | found on muddy lake shores of the Pacific Northwest (British Columbia,  |
|  | Oregon, Washington).  |

| Distribution<br>through the Pacific<br>Northwest <sup>7,8</sup> | Legend  Legend  Legend  Legend  Legend  July kimachia terrestris  O = OSU Herbarium O = Other Herbarium O |
|---|---|
| Ecological distribution   | Lysimachia terrestris grows in swamps and at the edges of ponds and lakes in  |
|   | the Eastern United States and in Eastern Canada. It is classified as an obligate  |
|   | wetland (OBL) plant, meaning that it almost always occurs in wetlands <sup>5</sup> . It is  |
|   | also found in the U.S. states of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, and in British  |
|   | Columbia. It is listed as endangered in Tennessee and Kentucky.   |
| Climate and elevation range                                     | It grows in humid climate with an elevation range of 0-1000 m. <sup>1</sup>   |
| Local habitat and   | Marshes, meadows and fields, shores of rivers or lakes, swamps, wetland   |
| abundance   | margins (edges of wetlands). <sup>3</sup>   |
| Plant strategy type / successional stage                        | Perennial, herbaceous.  |
| Plant characteristics <sup>1,9,10</sup>                         | 1. terrestris   |
|   | Lysimachia terrestris is a perennial herbaceous plant with opposite, simple   |
|   | leaves, and erect stems. The flowers are produced in a raceme, 10–30 cm (4–12   |
|   | in) long, at the top of the plant. The flowers are star-shaped with five yellow   |

|  | petals, and appear in mid-summer. Each petal has two red dots at its base           |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
|  | forming a circle of ten red dots in the center of the flower. Late in the summer,   |  |  |
|  | reddish bulblets form in the leaf axils.  |  |  |
| PROPAGATION DETAILS                                  |   |  |  |
| Ecotype  | N/A   |  |  |
| Propagation Goal                                     | Plants  |  |  |
| Propagation Method                                   | bulblets or rhizomes  |  |  |
| Product Type   | N/A   |  |  |
| Stock Type   | N/A   |  |  |
| Time to Grow   | Summer is the best time to propagate them by the rhizomes/bulblets. 4               |  |  |
| Target Specifications                                | N/A   |  |  |
| Propagule Collection                                 | The easiest method of propagation is by bulblets or the division of rhizomes,       |  |  |
| Instructions   | rather than seeds. <sup>4</sup>   |  |  |
|  | Flowers usually bloom during early to mid-summer, lasting about 2-4 weeks           |  |  |
|  | for a colony of plants. Sometimes, instead of flowers, it produces aerial bulblets  |  |  |
|  | in the axils of the upper leaves during the summer. <sup>4</sup>                    |  |  |
| Propagule  | Seed capsules are ovoid measuring upto 3-4 mm long. Each capsule contains           |  |  |
| Processing/Propagule<br>Characteristics <sup>4</sup> | few seeds. Individual seeds are quite small (about 1–1.5 mm. in length).            |  |  |
|  | The root system is rhizomatous. Clonal plants are produced from either the          |  |  |
|  | rhizomes or bulblets. The bulblets are up 0.5 inches long, ovoid in shape, and      |  |  |
|  | reddish brown. The bulblets detach from the mother plant and fall to the ground.    |  |  |
| Pre-Planting   | Not known   |  |  |
| Propagule<br>Treatments                              |   |  |  |
| Growing Area Preparation                             | This species prefers poorly-drained soil in mostly sunny or partly sunny sites.     |  |  |
|  | The preference is full or partial sun and wet to moist conditions. It can tolerate  |  |  |
|  | and grow in different kinds of soils. 4   |  |  |
| Establishment Phase Details                          | If grown outside, they should be planted maintaining the distance of 40-50 cm       |  |  |
|  | between the plants. These plants grow and spread quickly and provide rapidly        |  |  |
|  | growing groundcover.  |  |  |
|  | For potted plants, peaty soil should be used. If the soil is low-yielding and poor, |  |  |
|  | 20 g of complex fertilizer per bucket is added to the water for irrigation every    |  |  |
|  | 2 weeks.  |  |  |

| Length of  | Propagules should be planted in early autumn (in cold climates) or in the spring  |
|--|---|
| Establishment<br>Phase                                   | followed by biweekly irrigation in May-June.                                      |
| Active Growth Phase                                      | Spring and Summer.  |
| Hardening Phase  | Unknown   |
| Length of Hardening<br>Phase                             | Unknown   |
| Harvesting, Storage and Shipping                         | Swamp Candles' rhizomes can be collected once they have developed a good          |
|  | root system. Imbedding the brown bulbils in wet sand in the fall results in new   |
|  | plants that can be set out in the bog garden in spring. <sup>6</sup>              |
| Length of Storage  | N/A   |
| Guidelines for Outplanting /Performance on Typical Sites | It is resistant to both low and high temperatures.                                |
| Other Comments   | No edible or medicinal uses for Swamp Candles could be found. According to        |
|  | folklore, Swamp Candles and other members of the loosestrife genus were said      |
|  | to have soothing powers over animals, leading people to tie a branch of the plant |
|  | to the yoke of oxen to make them easier to handle. <sup>11</sup>                  |
| Protocol Author  | Shubroto Kumar Sarkar   |
| Date Protocol<br>Created or Updated                      | 05/24/2023  |

## **References**

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