



Ludwigia peruviana Threatens Elephant Habitats in Tamil Nadu

[Source: TH](#)

Why in News?

An Invasive weed called ***Ludwigia peruviana*** is posing a significant threat to **elephant habitats** and foraging areas in Valparai, Tamil Nadu.

What is *Ludwigia peruviana*?

▪ About:

- *Ludwigia Peruviana*, also known as **primrose willow**, is originally native to **Central and South America**.
- It is an aquatic plant that was likely introduced as an **ornamental species** due to its **attractive pale yellowish flowers**.
- However, its introduction to new regions has resulted in it becoming an invasive weed, causing **ecological disruptions in various swampy areas worldwide**.



▪ Characteristics:

- Ludwigia Peruviana grows **relatively tall, reaching a height of about 12 feet**.
- As an aquatic plant, it thrives in **wetlands and water bodies**.
- It grows faster than many other harmful weeds, and the pre-monsoon temperature and

monsoon rains contribute to its rapid growth and spread.

▪ **Impact on Elephants and Wildlife and Biodiversity:**

- The invasion of Ludwigia Peruviana poses a significant threat to elephant habitats, **disrupting the growth of essential food sources for elephants** and other plant-eating animals.
- The spread of this invasive weed also impacts the overall biodiversity of invaded areas, leading to the loss of native plant species and potentially **forcing wildlife to move to other areas, resulting in negative interactions with humans.**

▪ **Challenges in Prevention:**

- Ludwigia Peruviana is listed as one of the **22 priority invasive plants in Tamil Nadu**, emphasizing the urgency of containment and control measures.
- The elimination of Ludwigia presents a unique challenge compared to other invasive plants because it **grows in swamps, limiting the use of machinery** to tackle the problem **without damaging the ecosystem further.**
- Manual removal is tricky because the **plant breaks easily and new growth can emerge from root or broken stems.**
- **Hand-pulling and digging roots** can be effective.

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/ludwigia-peruviana-threatens-elephant-habitats-in-tamil-nadu>