

Brassbuttons

Cotula coronopifolia L.

Alternate Names

waterbuttons, common brass buttons, bachelor's button, brass buttons, buttonweed

Description

Brassbuttons is a low, decumbent perennial plant in its native subtropical environment. In Europe, the species behaves as an annual plant, dying in the first autumn frost. Plants grow up to 12 inches tall and are aromatic, hairless, and highly branched from the base. Stems are often trailing and root at the nodes. Leaves are 1–2½

inches long, oblong, pinnately lobed to entire, and sessile, and the base is sheathed around the stem. Flowerheads are yellow, solitary, and composed only of disc florets. Heads are borne on naked stalks and the involucre bracts are lanceolate or oblong and yellowish.

Similar Species

Common tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare* L., included in this book) and pineapple weed (*Matricaria discoidea* DC., included in this book) have similar flowerheads, but brassbuttons is smaller than the former and found in coastal habitats, unlike the latter. Arctic daisy (*Dendranthema arcticum* (L.) Tzvelev) is a native plant that also occurs along seashores but has white ray florets and wedge-shaped leaves.



USDA NRCS photo by William and Wilma Follette

Management

Brassbuttons can be controlled by hand-pulling or mechanical methods, although it can grow on very soft, deep mud, making infestations nearly inaccessible by foot or boat. Use of herbicides under local conditions has not been investigated.

Notes

A brassy gold dye can be obtained from the whole plant. *Cotula* comes from the Greek word *kotule*, meaning “a small cup” and referring to a hollow at the base of the leaves.