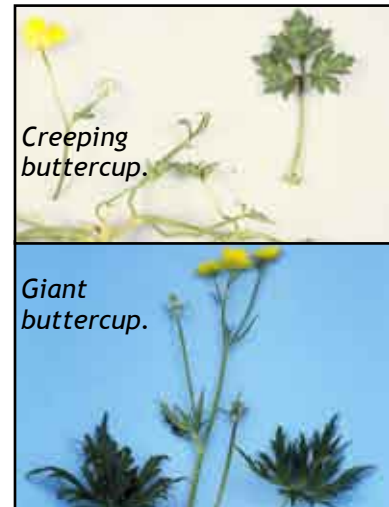


# Buttercup, Californian thistle and chickweed

## Buttercup (*Ranunculus* sp.)

- Summary** Creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*) and giant buttercup (*Ranunculus acris*) are the most common. Grow best in wet areas. Perennials.
- Identification** Creeping buttercup has runners and grows across the ground, whereas the giant buttercup is more upright. The giant buttercup also has finer more pointed leaves. Both produce yellow flowers.
- Characteristics** Eaten by sheep but not cattle. Herbicide-resistant ecotypes of giant buttercup have developed.



## Californian thistle (*Cirsium arvense*)

- Summary** Widespread perennial.
- Identification** Starts growing in November as rosettes from a creeping root system. Leafy stems then develop that can grow 50-150 cm tall. Has small purple flowers that grow from round buds. Seedlings resemble Scotch thistle but grow more slowly and have smoother leaves carrying spines on the edge only.
- Characteristics** Typically grow in patches, often from a single plant via its roots.



## Chickweed (*Stellaria media*)

- Summary** Widespread winter grower that does not like dry conditions. Annual.
- Identification** A sprawling plant, which has small light green leaves. Produces small white flowers.
- Characteristics** Germinates in the autumn and dies during the summer. Can be a problem in autumn saved pasture because of its ability to grow in shady conditions. Is controlled with frequent grazing through trampling.

