



Yellow Woodsorrel

O & T Guide W-20

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Yellow woodsorrel, *Oxalis stricta*, is a native herbaceous perennial with clover-like leaves, yellow flowers with five petals, and distinct seed pods with five corners. It has a spreading, prostrate growth pattern, but the stems often grow tall enough to form a rounded clump several inches high. It is often found in turf, lawns, potted outdoor plants, and greenhouses. Yellow woodsorrel is also known as yellow oxalis, sheep sorrel, toad sorrel, and sourgrass.



The stems emerge from spreading rhizomes that grow along the ground, rooting at the nodes. Stems are green to brown or red in color, up to 20 in. long, branched at the base, and may be smooth or have a few hairs. Stems may be either prostrate and spreading or erect. Leaves consist of three heart-shaped leaflets and resemble clover leaves. They are green to dark green in color, with tiny hairs on the leaf edges, and grow alternately along the stems.

Flowers grow singly or in clusters on long stems that emerge from the leaf axils. The flowers have five yellow petals, and each flower is 0.3-0.7 in. in diameter. The plant produces long, cylindrical seed pods at the ends of stems. The seed pods are green, hairy, and grow to about 0.75 in. long. In cross-section, the pods have 4-5 corners that resemble a star. The plant produces rhizomes and fibrous roots. It reproduces through seed or from rhizomes.





Management:

- Physical removal must remove roots and rhizomes
- Herbicides are effective

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