

WOOD SORREL

HOW TO IDENTIFY?

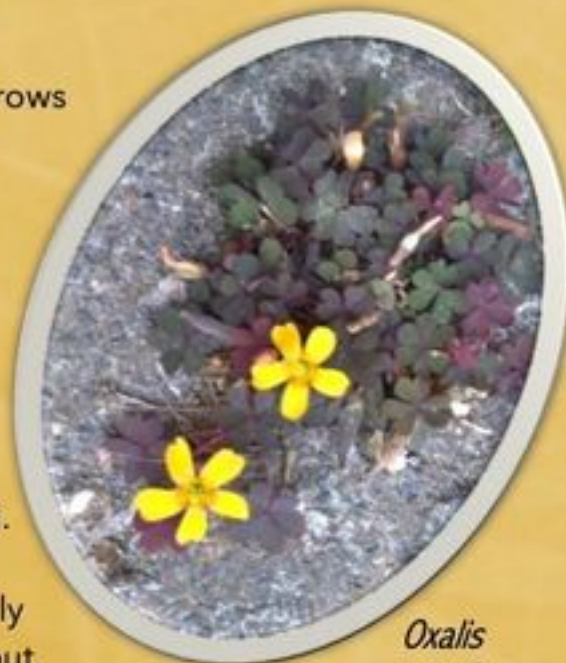
- Each leaf has 3 heart-shaped leaflets.
- Leaflets fold in half at night or when stressed.
- Small yellow flowers with five petals.
- Often confused with **BLACK MEDIC** or **CLOVER** - these don't have heart-shaped leaflets.

HOW DOES IT GROW?

- An annual in most parts of Canada; a short-lived perennial in parts of BC.
- Mainly spreads by seed. Seed capsules **EXPLODE**, scattering seed up to two metres away! Seeds need light to germinate.
- Stems can also root at the nodes.
- Likes moist soil and partial shade and often grows through other plants (it's hard to spot).
- Found in lawns, gardens, and greenhouses.

IS IT A PROBLEM?

- **NO**. It's an edible weed, with a slightly sour, lemony flavour.
- It's high in vitamin C.
- **BUT BE AWARE** that it (like spinach and many other edible plants) contains oxalic acid.
- It should **NOT** be consumed in **LARGE QUANTITIES** by people or livestock, especially people with kidney stones, rheumatism, or gout.
- **YES**. It spreads aggressively and competes with other plants.



*Oxalis
corniculata*

HOW TO CONTROL?

- Hand pull it, making sure to get all the roots.
- **OVERSEED** lawns.
- Cover the ground in gardens with mulch, to prevent seeds from germinating.
- In new garden beds, soil solarization can be used to control it.

Sources: Royer, F. and Dickinson, R. *Weeds of Canada and the Northern United States*. 1999.
University of California Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program Agriculture and Natural Resources.
Pest Notes: Creeping Wood Sorrel and Bermuda Buttercup. June 2010.

Image: Emőke Dénes. CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/windex.php?curid=21915084>