

## *Oxalis spp*

### **Common name:**

Soursob, Oxalis, Shamrock, Wood Sorrel,

### **Palatability to Livestock:**

Seldom eaten.

### **Toxicity to Goats:**

Low risk.

### **Toxicity to Other Species:**

Potentially toxic to sheep and cattle.

### **Poisonous Principle:**

Oxalates.

### **Effects:**

*Signs and symptoms;*

- . Muscle tremors,
- . Staggering gait,
- . Collapse.

*Health and Production Problems;*

- . Chronic kidney disease,
- . Associated ill-thrift,
- . Cumulative liver damage over many years,
- . Oxalate crystals build up in kidney and brain,
- . Calcium imbalance.

*Treatment;*

Be aware of potential stock problems.

### **Integrated Control Strategy:**

- . Cultivate, and sow to clovers.
- . Spot spray with Roundup® and wetter, plant should be actively growing and not under stress.
- . Declared “Noxious” in Victoria, Queensland, Tasmania, and South Australia.

### **Comments:**

- . There are two groups, those with bulbs above ground, and those without bulbs.

. All have trifoliate clover-like leaves, and spreading five petaled flowers in clusters, on one stem, often drooping; they follow the sun and close as light fades; flowers are in various colours depending on the variety.

. Leaves are crowded at the base of the plant, green, often purple flecked.

. The tops die back over summer.

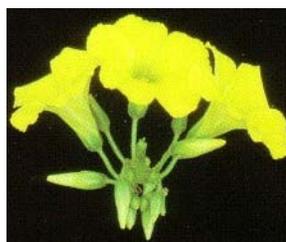
. Spread is by vegetative bulbs or rhizomes, maybe seed.

. Contractile roots on adult corms pull them down in the soil profile, to safety.

. Small auxiliary corms form on the stem and horizontal rhizomes shortly before flowering, and remain dormant until the following autumn, before sprouting.

. A native of S Africa and S America.

. Traveling stock are usually most affected.



Picture: Brushoff



Pictures: *Oxalis spp* Helen Simmonds. Calga. NSW.

### **Further Reading:**

- . Auld and Medd. Weeds. 1979.
- . Blood. Environmental Weeds for SE Australia. CRC Weed Management Systems. 2003.
- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981.
- . Kohnke. . Feeding and Nutrition of Horses. 1998
- . McBarron. Poisonous Plants, Handbook. 1983.
- . Parsons and Cuthbertson. Noxious Weeds of Australia. 2001
- . Swarbrick and Skarratt. Bushweed 2 Database. 1994