

Problem: Oxalis (Yellow Woodsorrel)



Description: Oxalis, also known as yellow woodsorrel, is a perennial weed that has clover-like trifoliate leaf. Though often mistaken for white clover or black medic, oxalis leaflets are heart shaped.

Recommendations: The best control for preventing an infestation is a thick lawn that is mowed high enough that sunlight does not hit the soil.

Controlling oxalis can be a challenge. New infestations can be hand pulled but plants that are well-established will come right back. More established infestations are controlled with herbicides but repeat applications will likely be needed. If the lawn is composed of a cool-season grass such as tall fescue or Kentucky bluegrass, products with triclopyr such as Hi-Yield Triclopyr Ester, Turflon Ester and Ortho Weed-B-Gon Chickweed, Clover & Oxalis Killer are the most effective homeowner products.

Warm-season grasses such as buffalograss, bermudagrass or zoysiagrass may be injured by triclopyr. However, Ortho Weed-B-Gon Chickweed, Clover & Oxalis Killer is labeled for Zoysiagrass and Buffalograss but not Bermudagrass. Use other combination products such as Trimec, Weed-B-Gon and Weed-Out on Bermudagrass. Since these products may not be as effective as products with triclopyr, more applications will likely be needed for control.

Fall applications for control for oxalis are more effective than those applied at other times of the year.

References:

1. [Woodsorrel, Yellow \(Oxalis\)](#), North Carolina State University TurfFiles
2. [Yellow Woodsorrel](#), Penn State University, Lawn and Turfgrass Weeds

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