

[Back to identifying nursery weeds.](#)

Yellow woodsorrel

Oxalis stricta L.

Life cycle

Low-growing annual or simple perennial.

Leaves

Cotyledons are rounded to oblong. Gray-green leaves are alternate, compound and cloverlike, with three heart-shaped leaflets that attach at the pointed ends. Long-stalked leaves have smooth surfaces, but they are fringed with hair along the margins.

Stems

Low-growing, prostrate to erect stems with minimal branching at the base, up to 20 inches tall. Plants spread by long, slender rhizomes.

Flowers and fruit

Yellow flowers with five petals are found in long-stalked clusters. Fruit are ridged, hairy, cylinder-shaped capsules with pointed tips that



Yellow woodsorrel plant.

Oxalidaceae (Woodsorrel family)

Yellow woodsorrel *continued*

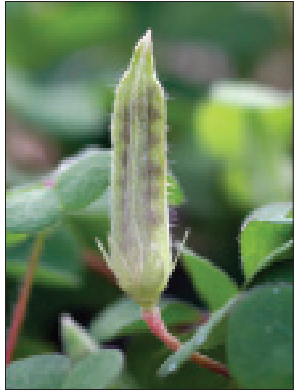
range from 0.5 to 1 inch in length. The capsules explosively eject small seeds with a sticky coating up to several feet away. Seeds are mostly brown, ridged, oval and flattened.

Reproduction

Seeds and rhizomes.



Yellow woodsorrel leaf.



Yellow woodsorrel fruit.

Similar weeds

Creeping woodsorrel (*Oxalis corniculata* L.)

Differs by having a more prostrate growth, lack of rhizomes, presence of aggressive stolons and foliage often more purplish green.