



Weed of The Week

Yellow Woodsorrel (*Oxalis Stricta* L.)

No, it is not clover, this week's weed of the week is often confused with different types of clover plants. Yellow Woodsorrel is a winter annual but can also grow as a perennial time to time. Yellow Woodsorrel is one of many problem weeds wreaking havoc on the turf, golf course, and Greenhouse plant production. This plant is a member of the Oxalidaceae family that can grow in a variety of habitats but prefer rich moist soils. Yellow Woodsorrel reproduces by seed and by its rhizome root system making it very challenging to control. This plant has a low growing habit until late in its life cycle, then it grows upright to about 1.5-2 ft if not cut. Key identifiers of this plant includes its greenish red leaves that are heart shaped or very similar to yellow sweet clover. Individual leaflets are smooth and about ¼-1/2 inches in diameter. Leaves of this plant droop and fold up at night and then open again in the daytime. Late spring and early summer this plant will produce a flashy yellow flower about ½ inches in diameter, arising from the leaf axils. Individual flowers have five petals that are rounded and notched at the tip. As the plant matures the flower petals fall off and then replaced by a seed capsule that can be ¾ inches long containing several seeds. As the plant matures and dries out the capsules will split open, launching seeds several feet away from the plant. Management of the weed can be a challenge but improving turf density and timely cutting before plant goes to seed can be a good way to control in turf and lawns. Hand pulling can be effective if the complete root system is removed. Post emergent herbicides such as 2-4-D, Dicamba, fluroxypyr and triclopyr can be effective as well.

