

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 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.



All photos this page: Steven A. Gower

Yellow woodsorrel plant.



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.