**Oxalis pes-caprae**

**System:** Terrestrial

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Kingdom</th>
<th>Phylum</th>
<th>Class</th>
<th>Order</th>
<th>Family</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Plantae</td>
<td>Magnoliophyta</td>
<td>Magnoliopsida</td>
<td>Geraniales</td>
<td>Oxalidaceae</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Common name**
buttercup oxalis (English), sourgrass (English), sour sorrel (English, South Africa), Englishweed (English), African woodsorrel (English), soursob (English), yellow sorrel (English), Bermuda buttercup (English)

**Synonym**
*Oxalis cernua*, Thunb.
*Oxalis libica*, Viv.
*Oxalis pleniflora*, Lanfranco
*Bolboxalis cernua*, (Thunb.) Small

**Similar species**

**Summary**
*Oxalis pes-caprae* is a short, perennial herb that is native to southern Africa. It mainly reproduces vegetatively via bulbs, and can form large clonal colonies. Colonies flower synchronously, with distinctive bright yellow flowers that are large and cup-shaped. It is commonly found growing in agricultural areas, cultivated areas, fields, disturbed/ruderal zones, gardens, wasteland, riparian zones, dunes and scrubland.

[view this species on IUCN Red List]

**Notes**
*Oxalis pes-caprae* is listed as an invasive species by the European & Mediterranean Plant Protection Organisation (EPPO) (EPPO 2006a).

**Reproduction**
*Oxalis pes-caprae* reproduces vegetatively, via bulbs. The mechanism by which this occurs is an underground movement combination of shoot elongation and root contraction. This results in a very effective method of bulb dispersal. However *O. pes-caprae* is also very dependent on human and animal-mediated dispersal into new areas. (EPPO 2006b; Pütz 1994).
General Impacts

*Oxalis pes-caprae* can suppress other ruderal weedy plants, including native species, smothering them and leading to a reduction in biodiversity. The leaves are toxic and can pose a danger to livestock if growing in fields or grassy areas. *O. pes-caprae* growing in agricultural areas can also be a pest during harvesting and decreasing yield. The presence of *O. pes-caprae* has been shown to decrease cereal seed germinability by up to 63%. (EPPO 2006a; Lambdon 2006; Marshall 1987; Petsikos *et al.* 2007).

Management Info

Mechanical control: Some livestock (*e.g.* pigs, turkeys) are known to graze on the bulbs of *Oxalis pes-caprae*, and this can be used as a control measure. (Lambdon 2006).  
Chemical control: Pre-emergence herbicides have been found to be effective against *O. pes-caprae*, particularly those containing glyphosphate or sulfonyl urea. *O. pes-caprae* is known to be resistant against dinitroaline-based herbicides. (Lambdon 2006).

Principal source:

Compiler: IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) with support from the Overseas Territories Environmental Programme (OTEP) project XOT603, a joint project with the Cayman Islands Government - Department of Environment

Review:

Publication date: 2010-06-08

ALIEN RANGE

| [3] UNITED KINGDOM | [3] UNITED STATES |

BIBLIOGRAPHY

36 references found for *Oxalis pes-caprae*

Management information

This compilation of information sources can be sorted on keywords for example: Baits & Lures, Non Target Species, Eradication, Monitoring, Risk Assessment, Weeds, Herbicides etc. This compilation is at present in Excel format, this will be web-enabled as a searchable database shortly. This version of the database has been developed by the IUCN SSC ISSG as part of an Overseas Territories Environmental Programme funded project XOT603 in partnership with the Cayman Islands Government - Department of Environment. The compilation is a work under progress, the ISSG will manage, maintain and enhance the database with current and newly published information, reports, journal articles etc.

**L. (Oxalidaceae) a new species in H.B.K. and L.**

In this paper the ecology and sociology of the neophyte occurs mainly in irrigated cultures of Citrus but also in river accompanying woods as well as in Ricinus L. Plant Protection Quarterly. 22(2). 2007. 62-66.

**is able to build tight weed layers in communities of tall herbs (Urtico-(Oxalidaceae)**

Crop Protection Vol. 6 December 1987, 355-364:

**in the western area of the**


**is one of the most frequent species.**

Available from: http://www.montsevila.org/Other%5CEffect%20of%20agricultural%20practices.pdf [Accessed 2]

**L.,**


**is coming from South Africa is pointed**

Available from: http://www.europe-aliens.org/pdf/Oxalis_pes-caprae.pdf [Accessing May 3 2010]

**Species in Italy, in the Iberian peninsula as well as in North Africa is pointed out by literature and own investigations. There**


**Oxalis pes-caprae**

Global Invasive Species Database (GISD) 2015. Species profile Oxalis pes-caprae. Pag. 3
