GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES DATABASE

FULL ACCOUNT FOR: ***Oxalis pes-caprae***

Oxalis pes-caprae **System:** Terrestrial

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Plantae	Magnoliophyta	Magnoliopsida	Geraniales	Oxalidaceae

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 ssed 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:

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ALIEN RANGE

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[2] ITALY
[1] MALTA
[1] NEW ZEALAND
[3] PORTUGAL
[1] TURKEY
[3] UNITED STATES

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36 references found for **Oxalis pes-caprae**

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Summary: 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.

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