PLANT FACT SHEET

Oxalis acetosella Linn.

GENUS *Oxalis* **FAMILY** Oxalidaceae

COMMON NAMES Wood sorrel, Sheep sorrel

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Flowers, Spice

The leaves are added to salads. They are also used in soups and sauces.
The dried leaves are used for tea.
CAUTION: Because the leaves contain oxalic acid they should be eaten cautiously or cooked in several changes of water.
The leaves can be used to curdle sheep's milk.

DESCRIPTION

A low growing plant. It is 5-10 cm high. It keeps growing from year to year. The leaves are small and shamrock shaped. The leaves have 3 heart shaped leaflets. They are initially folded in the middle. The leaves fold up at night and in strong sun or heavy rain. The flowers have 5 petals and are white. The flowers are bell shaped and have fine purple veins. The seed husks are yellow.

HABITAT

It is native to northern temperate regions. It grows in damp and shady places. It is often on forest floors. In Pakistan it grows in shady places between 1,200-2,500 m altitude. It suits hardiness zones 3-10. In Yunnan.

NOTES

There are about 500-800 Oxalis species. There are about 115 species in tropical America.

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