PLANT FACT SHEET

Oxalis debilis var. corymbosa Kunth, (A. DC.) Lourteig

GENUS *Oxalis* **FAMILY** Oxalidaceae

COMMON NAMES Pink shamrock, Lilac oxalis

EDIBLE PARTS AND USES

Edible parts: Leaves, Roots, Tubers, Flowers

The taproot or bulb can be eaten raw. They are also used for pickles.
The leaves and flowers are used to sour food. They are a substitute for tamarind. The harvested leaves can be stored for 3 days.
Caution: The leaves should only be eaten in small amounts due to oxalates.

DESCRIPTION

A small herb. It grows 25 cm high. It has bulbils 3-6 mm long. These are amongst the scales on the bulb. The leaves are compound and in rings. The leaf stalks are 7-25 cm long. The leaflets are 2-4 cm long. The flowers are purplish-pink. They occur in groups of 8-15 in the axils of leaves.

HABITAT

A tropical plant. It grows as a weed in lawns. It can grow in forest. In tropical Queensland it grows from sea level to 400 m altitude. In Java in Indonesia it grows between 450-1,450 m above sea level. In Argentina it grows below 1,000 m above sea level. It is usually in sunny locations.

PRODUCTION

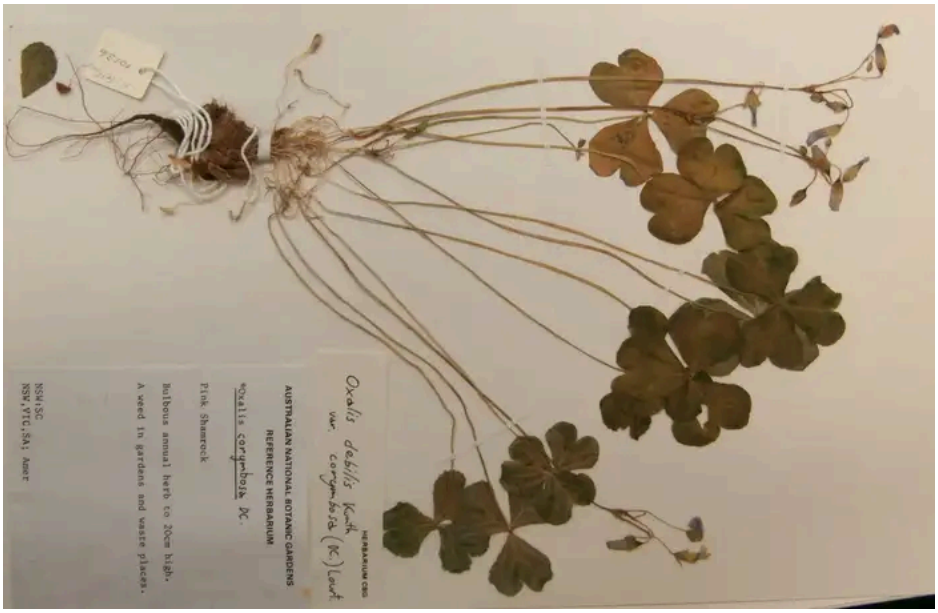
Cultivation

Plants are grown from small bulbs.

NOTES

There are about 500 Oxalis species.

PICTURES



Credit: Food Plants International (Bruce French)

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