

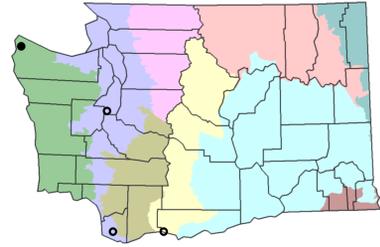
Oxalis suksdorfii Trel.

western yellow oxalis

Oxalidaceae - wood-sorrel family

status: State Threatened, BLM strategic, USFS strategic

rank: G4 / S1



General Description: Rhizomatous perennial with fine hairs; stems leafy, decumbent to erect, 3-15 cm long. Leaves with very small or no stipules; petioles less than 5 cm long, leaf blades divided into 3 heart-shaped leaflets, each leaflet less than 2 cm long.

Floral Characteristics: Peduncles exceeding the leaves, with 1-3 large, showy flowers. Sepals 5. Petals 5, yellow, 12-20 mm long, rounded. Styles 5. Stamens 10, filaments hairy, fused at the base for 2-3 mm. Flowers April to August.

Fruits: Capsules 5-lobed, oblong, 1-1.5 cm.

Identification Tips: *Oxalis stricta*, *O. dillenii*, and *O. corniculata* are also yellow-flowered, but their flowers are smaller and more numerous. The petals of *O. suksdorfii* are 12-20 mm long, and it has 1-3 flowers per peduncle. The petals of *O. stricta*, *O. dillenii*, and *O. corniculata* are 4-9 mm long, and they mostly have (1) 2-7 flowers per peduncle.

Range: B.C. to northwestern CA, from the western slopes of the Cascades to the Pacific coast.

Habitat/Ecology: Usually in meadows and moist forests; sometimes on dry open slopes or shrubby areas. One population in WA occurs on grassy sand dunes, where associated species include hookedspur violet (*Viola adunca*), creeping buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), and seashore false bindweed (*Calystegia soldanella*). The diversity in habitat choices suggests that this species has the ability to adapt to environments with varying amounts of moisture and shade.

Comments: The small number of populations and the low number of recorded individuals contribute to this species' sensitive status in WA. Threats include housing developments and recreational impacts. This species is also rare in CA.

References: Hickman 1993.

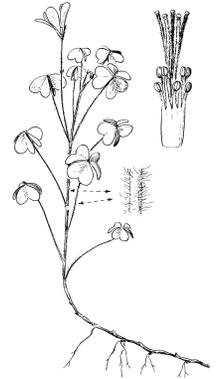


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