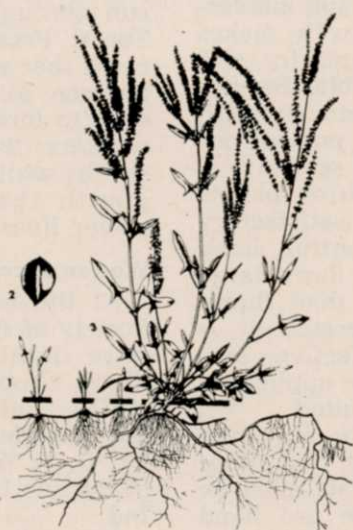


## RED SORREL

(*Rumex acetosella*)



Red sorrel, (1, 3) also called sheep sorrel and sourgrass, is a perennial which reproduces by seeds and by sprouts from shallow, but extensive, creeping roots. It is common throughout the United States and southern Canada.

Not easily confused with dock, also in the genus *Rumex*, red sorrel has arrow-shaped leaves (sagittate) with broadened basal lobes. Leaves are smooth, and rather thick, about 1 to 3 inches long. Sorrel stems usually grow to about 10 inches high, but may grow to a height of 18 inches.

Leaves begin to grow in the spring and form circular rosettes on dry, sandy, or gravelly soils. Soils favorable to red sorrel growth are generally acid (low pH). It also thrives on neutral or slightly alkaline soils, especially if soils are low in nitrogen. Plant tissues are sour to taste. This is why the weed is called sourgrass, sourweed, etc.

Sorrel is thought to be an indicator of acid conditions in the soil. It gives warning that grasses may not thrive. Such soils should be limed according to soil tests to promote vigorous growth of turf-grasses.

Male and female flowers are found on separate plants. Small flowers bearing male parts (pollen) are described as yellowish-green, whereas female flowers (seed producers) are reddish. Flower parts are borne on short branches (racemes) terminally on upright stems. Seeds (2) are between 1/16 and 1/32 inch long, three-sided, reddish-brown, and glossy.

Jointed roots are shallow but extensive. New stems are sent up intermittently from joints.

Since red sorrel is "acid-loving" and desirable grasses are not, sorrel will have an advantage on poor soils. Liming to relieve acidity will restore turf vigor. Proper fertilization with nitrogen will help eliminate red sorrel by producing healthy turf. Most desirable pH for lawn grasses is neutral (pH 7).

Herbicidal controls for lawns infested with red sorrel consist of several applications of 2,4-D before plant maturity. Of course, red sorrel will succumb to spot applications of any of the more powerful contact herbicides. Especially effective for selective control is dicamba (2-methoxy, 3,6-dichlorobenzoic acid) (Banvel D) as a foliage spray, but it should not be used where ornamentals are grown in adjoining beds.

Prepared in cooperation with Crops Research Division, Agricultural Research Service,  
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## Azar, Hercules' New Herbicide, Called Safe, Effective, Cheap

A new selective preemergence herbicide for crabgrass control said to offer the unique combination of economy, effectiveness, and safety, has been developed by the Hercules Powder Company.

Called Azar, the new aid to professional turf experts will be available as a wettable powder easily dispersed in water. It is practically nontoxic to humans and warm-blooded animals, Hercules says.

Lawn turf of red fescue, bent, Bermuda, dichondra, common Kentucky blue, and Merion blue grasses are, under normal conditions, tolerant to Azar at the recommended rates of application, company spokesmen report. Azar was identified as "9573" during the evaluation program.

Tests indicate that for best results Azar should be applied to established turf before crabgrass germination in the spring at the suggested rate of 10 lbs. active compound per acre as a spray or in granular form.

Of especial interest is the claim that Azar gives seasonal control with one application, and that it is effective even if applied several months prior to crabgrass germination.

More information about this new product is available from Hercules Powder Co., 910 Market St., Wilmington, Del.

## Residex Releases '64 Catalog

A new catalog and price list describing a complete line of products for the professional vegetation manager has been announced by the Residex Corp., according to Richard E. Sameth, sales manager for the Clark, N.J., formulator.

Residex reports it has a complete line of insecticides, herbicides, and brush killers. Also included in the Residex line of products are compression sprayers, mechanical and thermal aerosol generators, and other application equipment.

A copy of the 1964 Residex catalog may be obtained by writing to: Residex Corp., 225 Terminal Ave., Clark, N.J.