

# WEEDWATCH

STANDING SENTINEL TO PROTECT PLANT HEALTH

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## COMMON GROUNDSEL

*Senecio vulgaris*

### IDENTIFICATION TIPS

- ▶ This plant, which prefers cool, rich, moist soils, is a winter or summer annual. It can also be a biennial in coastal areas.
- ▶ It features a single stem or branched upright growth, 6 to 18 in. tall, and its yellow flowers bloom nearly year-round.
- ▶ Leaves are highly variable, from hairless to lightly covered with long wavy or cotton-like hairs.
- ▶ Groundsel reproduces by seed; each plant may produce three to four generations of seeds in one season.

### CONTROL TIPS

- ▶ Because the seed is easily spread and can potentially deposit numerous seeds throughout the season, the best option for control is an early-season application of a pre-emergent broadleaf herbicide with at least three months' residual, such as one containing the active ingredient isoxaben.
- ▶ To prevent common groundsel infestation, use good sanitation practices supplemented with pre-emergence broadleaf herbicides.

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## CREEPING WOODSORREL

*Oxalis corniculata*

### IDENTIFICATION TIPS

- ▶ This summer perennial contains a slender, shallow taproot and roots at nodes along the creeping, slightly hairy stems.
- ▶ Leaves are deeply lobed, heart-shaped and may be green to reddish-purple.
- ▶ Flowers are small and bright yellow, with five petals, and form in clusters of one to five at the end of slender stems.

### CONTROL TIPS

- ▶ Mowing, fertilizing or irrigating turf is not an effective method of control

— this plant can actually be spread through such practices.

- ▶ If lawn mowers are used where creeping woodsorrel is growing, wash or air-spray mowers to remove seeds and clippings before moving to a weed-free turf.
- ▶ Once established, it is very competitive. Application of a pre-emergent herbicide labeled for *Oxalis* control in the fall is a good option. Two applications, four to six weeks apart, may be needed to get all the seedlings.

\* State restrictions on the sale and use of Dimension apply.

For more information regarding these and other turf weeds — and related control technologies and tips — please visit [www.DowProvesIt.com](http://www.DowProvesIt.com) or call 800/255-3726.

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