

Weed of the Month

By Bob Scott

This month's weed of the month is red sorrel:

Rumex acetosella, commonly known as sheep sorrel or red sorrel, is a widespread perennial herb in the buckwheat family, recognized by its arrow-shaped leaves with a tangy, lemony flavor. Native to Eurasia, it's considered an aggressive weed in many areas, thriving in acidic, disturbed soils and spreading via creeping rhizomes. It has separate male and female plants, with male flowers being yellowish-green and female flowers reddish.

Sometimes it is a weed in Arkansas' wheat and pasture fields. Its presence can indicate that a field may have fertility problems such as high acidity. It is often found in disturbed areas, fields, roadsides, ditches, etc.

Considered a wildflower by many for its pinkish red seedheads and overall appearance (below), but it is invasive by nature.



Red sorrel in the rosette stage in the fall. (Photo below by Forest and Kim Starr)

