

# Sorrel weed (Ubwunyu bwa Nyamanza) in Banana

Oxalis latifolia Ubwunyu bwa Nyamanza (Kinyarwanda); Oseille, trèfle (French); Sorrel (English)



Flowers have pink petals and yellow centres with trifoliate leaves © Dick Culbert, flickr.



O. latifolia bulb with small daughter bulbs (bulbils) © John Tann, flickr

Prevention	Monitoring	Direct Control	Direct Control	Restrictions
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Practice intercropping of beans-banana alternated with mulching as this does not allow Oxalis latifolia to thrive and spread</li> <li>Apply mulch materials such as Temeda, Tripsacum, Pennisetum spp. or dry banana leaves (15-20 cm thick)</li> <li>Defoliation by mowing has to be repeated many times as weed emerges to have substantial effect</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Additional relevant crops: coffee</li> <li>Look for small plants with 14-15 leaves. Each leaf is composed of 3 fishtail shaped leaflets linked to one other. Their bulbs look like small whitish carrots (diameter: 1-2 cm). When seeds are formed, they are orange to dark yellow, about 1 mm long and ribbed</li> <li>Check for the presence of the weed 2 weeks after mulching</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A combination of deep tillage and exposure of bulbs to desiccate can be helpful</li> <li>Remove Oxalis latifolia in such a way that bulbs do not remain in soil; this is easiest to achieve in mulched plantations as the soil is soft and humid; bury the residues in a pit to avoid bulb re-sprouting within the field</li> <li>The rust fungus Puccinia oxalidis is a biological control agent; consult extension agency (Rwanda Agriculture Board) for its use to control Oxalis spp.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When using a pesticide or botanical, always wear protective clothing and follow the instructions on the product label, such as such as dosage, timing of application, pre-harvest interval, max number of sprays, restricted re-entry interval.</li> <li>Do not empty into drains and water sources.</li> <li>Always consult recent list of registered pesticides of RALIS in Rwanda</li> <li>Diuron – based products (Karmex®, or Karmex®XP), pre-emergence herbicides that must be sprayed before banana planting or between banana rows at last ½ m distance to trees. Usually applied at 275-500g/ha, but check product label</li> <li>2, 4-Dichloro-phenoxyacetic acid; a post-emergence herbicide for the control of broad-leaved weeds. Usually applied at 720g/L, but check product label. Apply when weeds are 3 weeks old, and at least ½ m away from crop; do not spray in windy weather</li> <li>Chemical control is only needed in rare cases of severe Oxalis latifolia infestation and in big commercial banana plantations</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>WHO toxicity class III (slightly hazardous). Do not use Diuron on light sandy or gravelly soils as crop damage may occur; Do not apply more than once per year; Apply when more than 50mm of rain is expected within 3 days; restricted re-entry interval r.e.i. ½ day; pre-harvest interval p.h.i.: 20 days</li> <li>WHO toxicity class II (moderately hazardous); do not spray 2,4-D if rain seems likely within 6 hours or if strong winds prevail; Do not apply 2,4-D if crop is stressed due to dry or wet conditions; r.e.i. 2 days; p.h.i.: 40days</li> </ul>

## Rwanda

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