

Oxalis bowiei

COMMON NAMES

Cape shamrock, Bowie's wood sorrel

BIOSTATUS

Exotic

CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

CATEGORY

Vascular

STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

SIMPLIFIED DESCRIPTION

Perennial with leaves emerging from bulbs in late summer, along with heads of flowers. Leaves firm, almost fleshy or coriaceous, densely pubescent.

FLOWER COLOURS

Red/Pink

SIMILAR TAXA

Other pink-flowered *Oxalis* species. *O. bowiei* has large and firmer leaves than most other common ones in New Zealand. Its flowers distinguish it from clovers.

GENUS

Oxalis

FAMILY

Oxalidaceae

AUTHORITY

Oxalis bowiei Lindl.

ENDEMIC GENUS

No

ENDEMIC FAMILY

No

REASON FOR INTRODUCTION

Ornamental - a popular potted plant for some gardeners

CONTROL TECHNIQUES

Confine to pots and take care with disposal of old potting mix if repotting, to prevent spread of the bulbs.

LIFE CYCLE AND DISPERSAL

Long-lived perennial herb. Spread by bulbils in soil movement (and perhaps seed)

ETYMOLOGY

oxalis: From the Greek word *oxus* meaning acid or sharp

ATTRIBUTION

Specimens collected of the photographed plant for CHR

MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/oxalis-bowiei/>



In gravel at lawn edge, naturalised, Bastia Hill Whanganui. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 23/03/2022, Licence: CC BY-NC.



In gravel lawn edge, naturalised; Bastia Hill, WHanganui. Photographer: Colin C. Ogle, Date taken: 23/03/2022, Licence: CC BY-NC.

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