

# WINDOWBOX

OFTEN CALLED windowbox wood sorrel, *Oxalis rubra* has sharply angled, clover-like leaves that grow on tall, wispy stems. It reaches a height of 30 cm (12 in.) and will bloom from spring until fall. The small, funnel-shaped flowers are usually pink, mauve or yellow. Shamrocks require full sun, moderate water and well-draining soil. A tuber or bulb does not like to dry out, so a good layer of mulch will help to retain moisture. If you are growing oxalis as a houseplant, it may require a dormancy period. When it stops flowering, do not water for three or four weeks. If planted outside, dig the tuber up in the fall, divide and replant in spring. Hardy to zone 7.

— Lia Van Baalen

For more on bulbs, go to [www.gardenwiseonline.ca](http://www.gardenwiseonline.ca)

PHOTO courtesy Netherlands Bulb Centre

# WOOD SORREL



OXALIS RUBRA



AFTER



BEFORE

## Garden Makeover

THE TRADITION OF JAPANESE GARDENS was the inspiration for this Vancouver townhouse garden, designed by Yoshihiro Kawasaki of Zen Gardens. Elements of rock, stone, plants, a stone lantern and the Zen aesthetic were used to create a space of peace and serenity that emulates nature. Utilized as an outdoor living space or viewed from the living room, this garden provides the owner with visual beauty and inner tranquility.

The techniques of rock placement and the creation of false perspective make this small space seem larger than it really is. One can imagine being in a vast landscape of forest, hills and the sea. Since the garden has been recently planted, the overall look of the plantings will take a couple of years to mature. However, ample space has been left between the shrubs for healthy growth. After the garden was completed, a bamboo broom was given to the owner to sweep the different sections of the new garden with meditative consciousness.

— Judith Hogan

PHOTOS courtesy BCLNA



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