

Discover the Flora of Our Campus

Oxalis triangularis

Oxalis triangularis, commonly known as the “butterfly plant” or “purple shamrock,” is an ornamental houseplant. Its most striking feature is its triangular leaves. These leaves are usually deep purple in color and fold upward at night, resembling “butterfly wings,” while they reopen during the day. Its small, delicate flowers are white, pink, or light purple. Due to its aesthetic appearance and moving

leaf structure, it is one of the most popular decorative plants.

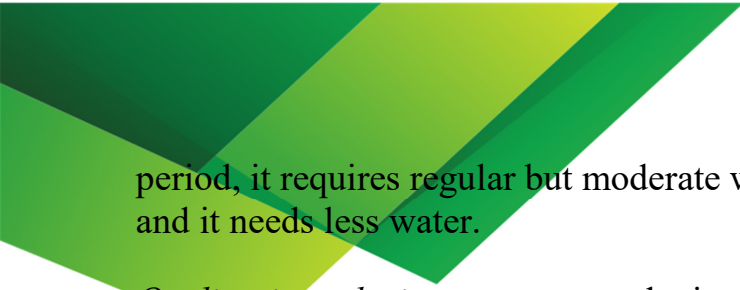


The native habitat of *Oxalis triangularis* is mainly the tropical regions of Brazil and South America. In nature, it grows in shaded and humid forest areas.

Today, it is cultivated in many countries as both an indoor and garden plant. It is especially widespread as an ornamental plant in Europe and Asia. In Azerbaijan, it is mainly kept as a houseplant.

The purple shamrock prefers partial shade and

bright environments. Direct sunlight can cause the leaf color to fade. The soil should be kept slightly moist, but excess water may cause root rot. It grows well at moderate room temperatures and is sensitive to cold. During the active growth



period, it requires regular but moderate watering. In winter, its growth slows down and it needs less water.

Oxalis triangularis creates an aesthetic and lively atmosphere in indoor spaces. Its daily leaf movement increases people's interest in nature and observation. Like other green plants, it has a positive effect on air quality and contributes to oxygen production. From an ecological perspective, its low maintenance requirements and ease of propagation make it a sustainable ornamental plant. It also plays a decorative role in increasing greenery in indoor environments.

The purple shamrock is mainly used for decorative purposes. It is grown in homes, offices, balconies, and winter gardens. Its colorful leaves create a strong visual effect in interior design. It is often used in small pots and plant arrangements. Because it requires simple care, it is also recommended for beginner plant enthusiasts.

Oxalis triangularis is one of the rare plants whose leaves move in response to light and darkness. This movement is called nyctinasty and is considered a natural defense mechanism of the plant. At night, the leaves close as if the plant is sleeping. The plant is called the “butterfly plant” because of this graceful and moving leaf shape. It is considered one of the most aesthetically distinctive houseplants in the world.

