

Oxalis, Lucky Shamrock Plant *Oxalis Regnellii*

This South African native is sometimes sold during March as the popular Shamrock Plant associated with St. Patrick's Day. But don't stop there continue to enjoy regnelli's gaiety through the year. Tuck regnelli on the side of a deck, in pots along a porch edge or indoors on a sunny windowsill. Place it where you can admire the attractive pinwheel leaves and the cool, clean, white flowers which seem to bloom year round.



Exposure: Full sun to light shade
Hardiness: Zones 6-10
Height: 7"-10"
Bloom Color: white
Bloom Time: Flowers in 8 - 10 weeks from planting when temps are warm

Planting Instructions:

Outdoor Beds

1. Find a location where the soil drains well. If there are still water puddles 5-6 hours after a hard rain, scout out another site. Or amend the soil with the addition of organic material to raise the level 2-3 inches to improve the drainage. Peat moss, compost, ground bark or decomposed manure all work well and are widely available.

Pots, Tubs, Urns & Windowboxes

1. Fill your containers with good quality, well-drained soil. Almost any commercially available potting medium will work fine. Make sure there are adequate drainage holes; oxalis bulbs must not sit in waterlogged soil or they will rot. Use an 8" - 10" pot for 5 bulbs.

For both Pots and/or Outdoor Beds:

2. Site your oxalis where they will get full day sun. They will also grow in light shade, but will produce more flowers and leaf color will be more brilliant in stronger light. Consider potting a few bulbs for indoor enjoyment; perfect in a sunny windowsill!

3. Dig little holes and plant the bulbs 1"-1.5" deep from the top of the bulb and 3"-4" apart. Just poke them down in the soil. As long as they have not sprouted roots or new growth (see photo at right), you don't worry about which side is up; they'll grow from any position. If you aren't sure, then lay them long-ways in the soil rather than vertically.

4. After planting, water well, thoroughly soaking the area. Foliage will form in about 6 weeks and flowers in 8-10 weeks.

5. When blooming has finished for the season, leave the foliage in place; don't cut it off. The leaves will gather sunlight and provide nourishment for next year's show. Water as needed during active growth periods.

6. Late in the summer the leaves will yellow and die back as the plant slips into dormancy. Foliage may be removed at this point. Your oxalis will rest for a few months before beginning the next growing cycle.



As always, email me with questions.