



## Henderson County Master Gardeners Weekly News Article      December 25, 2017

### Purple Shamrock

by Lydia Holley

Almost everyone that came to my house at Christmastime remarked how pretty the purple shamrock (oxalis triangularis) looked that is potted and placed on my patio table. Several stated that the plant reminded them of butterflies. These little plants in this small container have been a joy to me all year.



Purple shamrock is a versatile plant. It can be grown in the ground, in a container, or indoors. It prefers bright shade outdoors and a sunny window indoors. It also sports miniature pastel pink blooms unless it is either too hot or too cold.

If planted outdoors, a freeze will kill all its foliage, but it should return again the following spring. I keep my potted purple shamrocks from going dormant by bringing the container inside on cold winter nights. In the summer, purple shamrock may also go dormant when temperatures rise above 80.

Native to Brazil, this little plant is beautiful all by itself in a contrasting colored pot. You may also wish to place it with companion plantings to enhance its unusual coloring. It will go well with numerous plants either in a container or placed in the garden.

Try planting purple shamrock with Liriope muscari 'Variegata'. The yellow in 'Variegata's' leaves and its purple flowers will make a striking statement either outdoors or in a pot. You may also want to try pairing it with black mondo grass (Ophiopogon planiscapus 'Nigrescens'), small hostas, the colorful annual million bells (Calibrachoa), leadwort (Ceratostigma plumbaginoides), yellow sedum 'Angelina', or variegated cast iron plant (Aspidistra elatior 'Variegata'). If you are looking for a companion plant to hang over the side of your pot, try variegated Algerian ivy (Hedera canariensis 'Gloire de Marengo') or golden creeping Jenny (Lysimachia nummularia 'Aurea').

Whether in a container, in the ground, or indoors, planted by itself or with companions, purple shamrock will be sure to delight you and your guests.

For more information, call 903-675-6130, email [hendersonCMGA@gmail.com](mailto:hendersonCMGA@gmail.com) or visit [www.henderson-co-tx-mg.org](http://www.henderson-co-tx-mg.org).