



Whatcom Weeds

Whatcom County Noxious Weed Control Board 322 N. Commercial St Bellingham WA 98225
(360) 778-6234 www.whatcomcounty.us/914/Weeds

CURLY DOCK

Rumex crispus

THREAT: Curly dock, also called sour dock, is a native of Eurasia and is now found throughout North America and much of the world. It is found in disturbed areas, rights-of-way and fields, preferring sites in full sun. Curly dock spreads by seed, each plant producing up to 4000 seeds. Seeds are enclosed in a papery, winged structure that aids in seed dispersal by wind and water. The seeds can remain viable in the soil for at least 50 years.

DESCRIPTION: Curly dock is a perennial plant, growing 2 to 5 feet tall. The plant has long (4 to 12 in.) narrow (1 to 2 in. wide) leaves with wavy or curly margins. The leaves are dark green but often become reddish as the season progresses. Basal leaves are longer than stem leaves. It has a tall reddish stem that produces a long spike of small greenish flowers. The entire inflorescence usually turns reddish-brown after the seeds mature. Curly dock has a long, strong tap-root.



MANAGEMENT OPTIONS: Curly dock can be controlled through mechanical and chemical means. Individual plants can be hand dug or pulled, especially when the ground is wet. Care should be taken to remove as much of the root as possible. Curly dock will send up another, shorter flowering stalk, if mowed. Contact the weed board for site-specific chemical recommendations or visit the Board's website at <http://www.co.whatcom.wa.us/930/Noxious-Weed-Fact-Sheets> for the publication: "Control Options for Curly Dock"

