

## Curly dock

*Rumex crispus* L.

### Life cycle

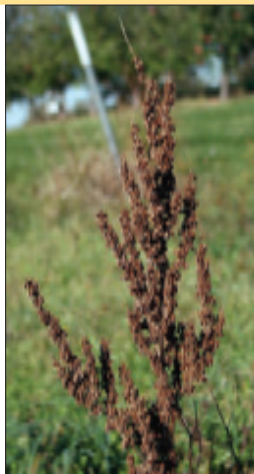
Erect, taprooted simple perennial.

### Leaves

Alternate, long and narrow with round to pointed tips and wavy margins. Leaves are shaped like bacon strips.

### Stems

Forms a basal rosette that bolts prior to flowering, unbranched, reaching 3 to 4 feet in height. A membranous sheath (ocrea) surrounds the stem at the base of each petiole.



Curly dock mature seedhead.



Curly dock rosette.

**Polygonaceae (Smartweed family)**

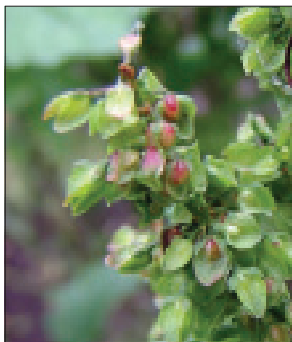
## Curly dock *continued*

### Flowers and fruit

Flowers are small, usually greenish and found in clusters on the upper stems, becoming reddish brown at maturity. The seed is enclosed in a single-seeded, shiny, reddish brown, three-sided fruit.

### Reproduction

Seeds and fleshy taproot.



Curly dock flower cluster.



Curly dock seedling.

**Polygonaceae (Smartweed family)**

## Curly dock *continued*

### Similar weeds

**Broadleaf dock** (*R. obtusifolius* L.)

Differs by having much wider, broader leaves and usually heart-shaped leaf bases.



Broadleaf dock rosette.



Broadleaf dock leaf.

**Polygonaceae (Smartweed family)**