

CURLY DOCK

(*Rumex crispus*)



Curly dock is a perennial which reproduces from seeds. It may be termed yellow dock, sour dock, or narrow-leaved dock by local inhabitants. It is found in fields, pastures, lawns, meadows, and roadsides throughout the United States and southern Canada. Although there are several other species of *Rumex* called dock, this species is the only one with wavy leaf edges.

Stems (1) which arise from the root crown in the spring are smooth and stout. They may grow to 4 feet high. Several stems may arise from one root crown.

Leaves are lance-shaped, but with curly, or crispy edges. They appear alternately on the stem. Fewer leaves occur on the upper portions of the plant stem. Leaves have no hairs and are smooth.

Flowers are borne on stalks called racemes (*ra-as* in rabble, -seems) which grow from the axils of small upper leaves (2), and from stem ends. The flowers are petalless and small, occurring in whorls about the raceme stalk. Having no petals, they appear greenish, and as they mature, they turn reddish brown. Each flower will have developed 3 seeds, and each group of 3 seeds is surrounded by 3 papery wings, or bracts, which are somewhat heart-shaped (3). These 3 wings under some conditions cause the pod to be borne on the wind for a short distance.

The root is a yellow, deep, stout taproot. The plant is not killed by digging unless the stem is cut off well below the ground line. For this reason, mowing does no permanent good.

Spray in the spring with 2,4-D. Two or three sprayings will kill curly dock.

Prepared in cooperation with Crops Research Division, Agricultural Research Service, United States Department of Agriculture, Beltsville, Maryland.

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WTT's New Monthly Sod Section Debuts in July

A complete section devoted to professional sod production in the United States will be a regular part of *Weeds Trees and Turf* starting next month.

Months in preparation, this new regular feature will discuss subjects of unique interest to the hundreds of sod producers now in business throughout the country. *WTT* editors say thousands of turf professionals in allied pursuits who sell or install sod, or who are called on to treat it, will also find the section interesting.

Called the Sod Industry Section, the department will be an integral part of *WTT* each month, although it will contain editorial and advertising material pertaining only to commercial turfgrass sod production and handling.

Subjects to be covered include new techniques of harvesting, materials handling on the sod farm, labor management, marketing, seeding, irrigation, and similar topics.

In keeping with the editorial approach characteristic of the rest of the magazine, articles will be use-oriented and will be prepared by leading authorities from the field, including major sod farm executives, experts from universities and government agencies, and the *WTT* technical staff.

Inauguration of Sod Industry Section is a result of the editors' awareness that one of the most striking aspects of the overall professional turf market as it exists today is the rapid growth of commercial sod farming. Surveys by this magazine show hundreds of companies are now actively engaged in the business, and more are entering the field every day, in answer to a dramatically increased demand from affluent homeowners, from institutional groundskeepers wanting "instant lawns," and from others who consume this "crop" at an enormous pace.

Be sure to watch for the first Sod Industry Section in *WTT* next month, and every month thereafter.