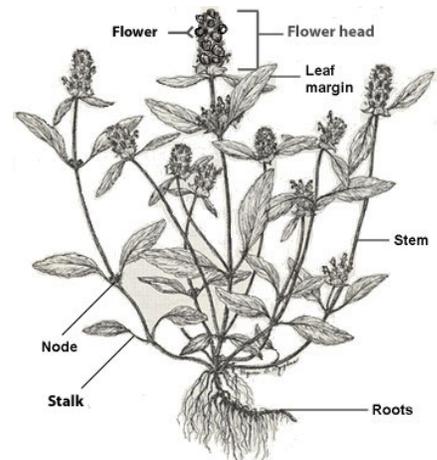


BROADLEAF WEEDS

TITLE:	CURLY DOCK
LATIN NAME:	<i>Rumex crispus</i>
FAMILY:	Polygonaceae (Smartweed)
OVERALL DESCRIPTION:	
<p>A herbaceous perennial weed that emerges as a basal rosette of elongated leaves with a thick, fleshy taproot. This is followed by tall, erect stems with flowers maturing from green to brown.</p> <p>A native of Europe, Curly Dock now occurs worldwide and is considered a weed in 40 countries.</p>	
LIFE CYCLE	Simple perennial, reproducing by seed
SEASONS OF GROWTH	Seeds germinate at various times during the growing season, depending on light and fluctuating temperatures.
FLOWERS / SEEDHEAD	Round, hairless stalk bolts from rosette mid-Spring. Flowers appear April-July and continue thru late Fall, turning reddish-brown at maturity.
LEAF SHAPE	Oblong - lanceolate
LEAF EDGES	Wavy or curly margins resembling crisped bacon
LEAF ARRANGEMENT	Dull, dark green, hairless, basal leaves forming rosette about 1 foot across
GROWTH HABIT	Prostrate and non-woody
FULL LEAF SIZE	Up to 6-8 inches long and 1-2 inches wide
STEM CHARACTERISTICS	Erect and tall (1-4 feet) arising solitary or in a small group from root crown
ROOT	Thick tap root with yellow interior that may extend 4 feet deep with side branches up to 3 feet long
ANY OTHER DISTINGUISHING TRAITS	Fruits are heart-shaped clusters of winged achenes. Each wing encloses a single glossy, red-brown seed.



Photos: University of Illinois



COMMON TYPICAL BROADLEAF WEED STRUCTURE

TYPE OF SOIL CONDITIONS OR PRACTICES FAVORING GROWTH	Thrives in full sun. Prefers disturbed sites, with nutrient-rich, heavy, damp soils. Can adapt to temporary flooding or dry areas with poor soils. Does not tolerate acidic soils. Habitats include vacant lots, roadside banks, pastures, weedy meadows, and edges of yards and gardens.
KEY MESSAGE TO HOMEOWNER	Single plants can produce up to 60,000 seeds that can germinate readily or stay viable in the soil for at least 80 years.
CULTURAL CONTROL	Mowing will prevent seed production and reduce top growth. Uprooting, chopping, and then burying the taproots will provide control. Using a shovel to remove the crown about 2 inches below the surface will also control.
BIOLOGICAL CONTROL	None noted
CHEMICAL CONTROL	For postemergence broadleaf control, use a product in the spring with the active ingredient 2,4-D in combination with any of the following: Dicamba, MCPP, Triclopyr, or Penoxsulam. Follow all label instructions. (2021 Virginia Cooperative Extension Pest Management Guide)
SOURCES OF INFORMATION	Ohio State University College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences https://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu/weedguide/single_weed.php?id=39 Michigan State University Department of Plant, Soil, and Microbial Sciences https://www.canr.msu.edu/weeds/extension/curly-dock Virginia Tech College of Agriculture and Life Sciences https://weedid.cals.vt.edu/profile/176 North Carolina State Extension https://content.ces.ncsu.edu/curly-dock Illinois Wildflowers http://www.illinoiswildflowers.info/weeds/plants/curly_dock.htm Virginia Tech Pest Management Guide https://fairfaxgardening.org/wp-content/webdocs/ref/2021PestManagementGuide.pdf
FCMGA SPECIAL PROJECT RESEARCH BY	Ellen Peterson, FCMGA Master Gardener