



Weed of The Week

Curly Dock (*Rumex crispus*)

This week's weed of the week is a Doc that won't be able to heal your ailments! Curly Dock is a perennial weed thought to be native to Europe and western Asia, reaching the United State in the early 1600s in contaminated crop seed from Europe. Curly dock can be grown throughout much of the country today but prefers moist rich soils in pasture and hay fields. Curly Dock can also become a weed in no-till crop production. Curly Dock reproduces mainly by seed; the seed can remain viable in the soil for 80 years. Germination of the seed can take place throughout the year, but early spring and the fall of the year is the viable time. Young plants will have two true leaves that are spatula-shaped and have a reddish-green color, as the plant matures these leaves can reach a length as long as 12 inches. As the plant matures it will begin to grow upward creating a very thick stem with unbranched stem bolts. At full maturity, Curly Dock can reach heights of 5 feet tall. Flowering can actually take place two times a year. Flowers of Curly Dock are not very flashy, only 1/8 of an inch in size, and form in tight clusters. As the plant matures the flower clusters turn brown and produce thousands of seeds. Controlling Curly Dock has to have mutable approaches to be successful. For pasture and hay production, it is very important to control reproduction due to this plant's potential toxicity to livestock. Mowing and use of selective herbicides such as 2-4-D and Dicamba work very well. GrazeonNext has shown good results as well.

