

CURLY DOCK

Rumex crispus

SHEEP SORREL

Rumex acetosella

FAMILY:	Polygonaceae	
GENUS:	Rumex	
SPECIES:	crispus	acetosella
COMMON NAMES:	Curly Dock Yellow Dock Sour Dock Narrow-leaved Dock	Sheep Sorrel Sorrell Dock Field Sorrel Red Sorrel Wood Sorrel Sour-weed
POLLEN GRAINS:	Spheroidal, 23 to 27 microns in diameter. A thin exine is finely pitted. Three or four (sometimes six) linear furrows are evenly arranged, each having a small elliptical germ pore.	
POLLINATING PERIOD:	June to August. Earlier in warmer areas.	Throughout the summer but heaviest in May and June.
DISTRIBUTION:	Throughout the United States.	Throughout most of the United States. Rarely found in Southern California or desert areas of the Southwest.
ALLERGIC IMPORTANCE:	Of only moderate importance in areas of abundance.	

Curly Dock is a stout perennial 1½ to 5 feet tall. During the first year the plant forms a dense rosette of leaves. Leaves are elongated with wavy margins. The upright stems are leafy. The terminal inflorescence is dense with few or no leaves and is 1 to 2 feet long. In fruit in the late summer and fall the tops turn a characteristic reddish brown.

Sheep Sorrel is a perennial ½ to 2 feet tall arising from a slender running rootstock. The leaves are rather fleshy and vary in size and shape from lower to upper. The lower leaves are halbard-shaped with two basal lobes.

The inflorescence is terminal and mostly leafless. Individual flowers are of separate sex with the female being red and the male a yellowish green color. The foliage of the docks is acid but especially so in this species.



Rumex acetosella
(Sheep Sorrel)



Rumex crispus
(Curly Dock)

MARY FOLEY BENSON