

Rumex crispus

Common name:

Curled dock

Palatability to Livestock:

Moderate.

Toxicity to Goats:

Low risk.

Toxicity to Other Species:

Cattle, especially pregnant cows and calves.

Poisonous Principle:

- . Glycocides,
- . Nitrates,
- . Rumicine, an irritant,
- . Oxalates.

Effects:

Signs and symptoms;

- . Unsteady gait,
- . Swaying hindquarters,
- . Fall, and cannot get up.
- . Scouring, dark urine, kidney disease.

Health and Production Problems;

- . Keep cattle away from this weed.

Treatment;

- . Try purgatives, (Epsom Salts) as a drench.

Integrated Control Strategy:

- . Deep cultivation.
- . Herbicides.

Comments:

- . Erect perennial up to a metre high.
- . Basal leaves may be heart shaped, or rounded, with curling edges, often wooly underneath, and large, forty cms high, on stout stalks.

- . Leaves further up the plant are long and narrow, with pointed tips.
- . Leaves are sour to taste.
- . Tall flowering stalk is smooth and has sprays of tiny green flowers, maturing to brown seeds in a husk.
- . Taproot is deep, fleshy, yellow and branching, and will regrow, given the opportunity.
- . The plant is unpalatable, but not very toxic to livestock, although often cooked and eaten by humans.
- . Causes irritation to the skin, mucous membranes, and digestive system.



Picture: *Rumex crispus* Helen Simmonds. Calga NSW.

Further Reading:

- . Everist. Poisonous Plants of Australia. 1981.
- . Lamp and Collett. Weeds. 1979.
- . McBarron. Poisonous Plants, Handbook. 1983.
- . Parsons and Cuthbertson. Noxious Weeds of Australia. 2001.
- . Roth. Weeds, Friend or Foe. 2001.
- . Simmonds, Holst and Bourke. Palatability and Potential Toxicity of Australian Weeds to Goats. 2000.
- . Swarbrick and Skarratt. Bushweed 2 Database. 1997.