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CURLY DOCK MANAGEMENT TIPS

Curly dock, a member of the Buckwheat family, is a perennial with a taproot. The elongated leaves are mostly basal with curly or wavy margins, are four to twelve inches long, lack hairs and alternate along the stem. The small green flowers are arranged in dense, spike-like, terminal and axillary clusters. Mature plants usually grow two to five feet tall and the entire plant turns a reddish-brown at maturity. Reproduction is primarily by seed. Curly dock is commonly found along roadsides, ditches, pastures and waste areas, and may be poisonous to livestock when ingested in large quantities.



Management must be planned over several consecutive growing seasons at a site and should focus on preventing seed production and dispersal. The area should be monitored for new growth until the seed bank is depleted and any new plants that emerge from seeds should be controlled appropriately.

Effective control measures for the management of curly dock include:

1. **Mechanical (mowing):** Mowing before plants are flowering can reduce seed production.
2. **Herbicide: Always follow directions on the label. The label is the law!** Calibrate your equipment to ensure that you are adding the proper amount of herbicide to your tank. The following herbicides are commonly used to control curly dock. **DO NOT use these herbicides on lawns, turf or ornamental sites - read the label.** *For the most effective control, apply herbicides in the rosette stage up to the early bolting stage.*

Mixing rates in small backpack or hand sprayers are as follows:

*Opensight:	1/2 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
*Chaparral:	1/2 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
Milestone:	3/4 - 1.5 teaspoons herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
GrazonNext:	1 oz herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
*Escort XP:	1/8 – 1/5 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
*Telar XP:	1/5 – 1/2 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
*Cimarron Plus:	1/8 teaspoon herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
DuraCor:	0.5 oz herbicide to 1 gallon of water.

Rates in large sprayers are as follows:

*Opensight:	2 – 2.5 oz herbicide per acre.
*Chaparral:	2 – 2.5 oz herbicide per acre.
Milestone:	4 - 7 oz herbicide per acre.
GrazonNext:	1 quart herbicide per acre.
*Escort XP:	1/2 - 1 oz herbicide per acre.
*Telar XP:	1 – 2.6 oz herbicide per acre.
*Cimarron Plus:	1/2 oz herbicide per acre.
DuraCor:	12 oz herbicide per acre.

NOTE: Adding a surfactant to your tank mix may enhance the performance of your herbicide and is required for certain herbicides (read the label). Add 0.5 - 1 oz per gallon of water for backpack sprayers or 1 – 2 pints per 100 gallons for large sprayers.

*** denotes that a surfactant is required for the herbicide to be effective**

3. **Cultural (tilling & revegetation):** Tillage can be effective in controlling curly dock. Planting and maintaining desirable, competitive species will help slow the spread.
4. **Integrated management:** Management of curly dock is more effective when more than one strategy is used.