

Bitter dock

Rumex obtusifolius

Description

Grows rapidly in areas dominated by native species; Host to a number of viruses, fungus and nematodes.

Habit

Erect; perennial; to 4 ft tall; stout forb; usually 1 un-branched stem to the flower clusters; taproot that sometimes branches.

Leaves

Lower with heart-shaped base, oblong to oval, up to 6 in wide, upper much smaller, blade oblong to ovate-oblong, sometimes broadly ovate; 20-40 by 10-15 cm, usually less than 4 times as long as wide.

Stems

Erect; branched distal to middle or occasionally in distal 2/ 3; often with few flowering stems from rootstock, 60-120(-150) cm.

Flowers





Yellow in color, 10-25 in lax whorls, 6-parted,
1.5-2 times as long as wide, base truncate.

Fruits and Seeds

Produces up to 60,000 seeds per year.

Habitat

Native to Eurasia and Asia. Found in disturbed areas; pastures, river banks and open moist places, and a major weed of gardens and arable land; stockyards, cowsheds and other places with very high nitrogen levels.

Reproduction

By seed.

Similar

Other dock species (*Rumex* spp.) but can be distinguished by its shiny leaves, which are broad, well-rounded or cordate at the base and crisped along the margins.

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Monitor farm land and disturbed areas.

Credits

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