

Rumex species (docks) are usually erect herbs with stout taproots and most leaves in a rosette at the base. Flowers are made up of six segments, the inner three enlarging and variously thickening at maturity to enclose the fruit, a three-angled nut. Inflorescence is a long spike of whorl-like flower clusters. Mostly spring to summer flowering. Weeds of crops, pasture, gardens, roadsides, wasteland and other disturbed sites especially in damp situations.

Rumex brownii (swamp dock, slender dock), native to Australia, is an erect few-branched perennial herb to about 1 m high. Leaves (5–20 cm long) are oblong to narrowly oval with margins sometimes crisped, becoming leafless in the upper half of the plant. Flower 'whorls' are in distinctly separate leafless clusters up the spikes. Fruiting segments are triangular with 3–5 hooked lateral teeth and the tip of each segment also hooked. Widespread and common. [All states]

Rumex conglomeratus (clustered dock), native to Europe and south-western Asia, is an erect perennial herb to about 1 m high. Leaves (4–12 cm long) are oblong to lance-shaped often with wavy margins, reducing in size up the stems. Flower 'whorls' are in close, but distinctly separate clusters, usually with a small leaf, up widely-branched spikes. Fruiting segments are egg-shaped and without teeth. Widespread and common. [All states]

Rumex crispus (curled dock), native to Europe and south-western Asia, is an erect perennial herb to about 1 m high. Leaves (8–30 cm long) are lance-shaped to narrowly oblong with finely crisped margins that are usually also wavy, reducing in size up the stems. Flower 'whorls' are almost continuous up the erect spikes. Fruiting segments are broadly egg-shaped to spherical and without teeth. Widespread and common. [All states]

Rumex dumosus (wiry dock), native to Australia, is a perennial herb to about 60 cm high, with wiry much-branched stems. The inflorescence breaks off near the base and disperses as a 'tumbleweed'. Fruiting segments are triangular with 2–3 stiff lateral teeth near the base. Locally common in plains country and heavy clay soils. [All states except NT]



Rumex brownii fruiting segments (left)

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Rumex conglomeratus fruiting segments (left)

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Rumex crispus fruiting segments (left)

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