

Washington Invasive Ranking System

Washington Natural Heritage Program

Rumex crispus (Curly Dock)

Assessed by

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Ecological Impact Rank: **Insignificant** (6)

Confidence: **Moderate** (58)

Management Difficulty Rank: Insignificant (2)

Confidence: High (90)

Biological Characteristics of Invasiveness: Moderate (53)

Confidence: High (75)

Concern Related to Distribution and Abundance: Moderate (53)

Confidence: Moderate (50)



Photo Credit: David Giblin 2023, used under Creative Commons license (Burke Herbarium, University of Washington, 2024).

Ranking Notes

Rapid assessment only, based primarily on professional expertise.

Legal Listings

[Washington State Weed Board](#): No

[Washington Invasive Species Council](#): No

Section 1: Distribution and Abundance

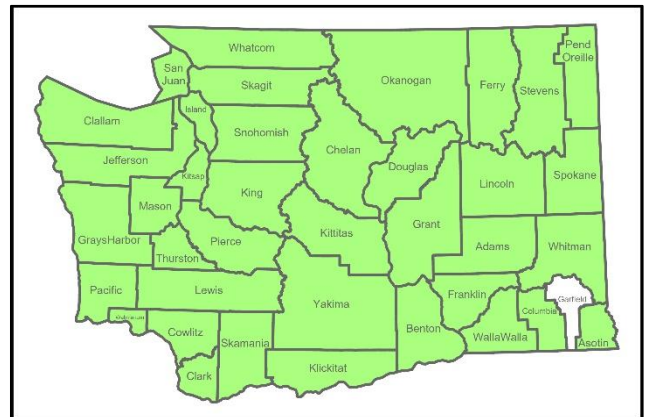


Figure 1. Distribution of counties where *Rumex crispus* has been documented in Washington State (CPNWH, 2023; EDDMapS, 2023; iNaturalist Contributors, 2023).

Q1: Current Range Size in Washington

Rating: High

Confidence: High

This species is found in 97% of counties in Washington (CPNWH, 2023; EDDMapS, 2023; iNaturalist Contributors, 2023).

Source: Herbarium records and other observations

Q2: Current Trend in Total Range

Rating: Unknown

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

Q3: Proportion of Potential Range Currently Unoccupied

Rating: Unknown

Confidence: Not Rated

Source:

Q4: Local Range Expansion or Change in Abundance

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: Moderate

This species doesn't seem to be expanding locally in areas with which the assessor is familiar.

Source: Professional expertise

Q5: Diversity of Ecosystems Invaded

Ecosystem types: Grassland & Shrubland, Emergent Open Wetland

Rating: Low

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Section 2: Biological Characteristics

Q6: Aggressive Mode of Reproduction

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

As noted in Cavers & Harper (1964), this species flowers multiple times per year, produces copious seed, and can resprout from vegetative fragments.

Source: Published research

Q7: Innate Potential for Long-Distance Dispersal

Rating: Yes

Confidence: Low

Viable seeds of the related *R. obtusifolius* have been found in cattle dung (Salisbury, 1961).

Source: Published research, Professional expertise

Q8: Potential to be Spread by Human Activities

Rating: No

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q9: Allelopathy

Rating: No

Confidence: Low

Source: Professional expertise

Q10: Competitive for Limiting Abiotic Factors

Rating: No

Confidence: High

This plant does have a long tap root but is not competitive outside of highly disturbed areas.

Source: Professional expertise

Q11: Growth Form

Rating: No

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Q12: Germination Requirements

Rating: No

Confidence: High

This plant requires bare soil to germinate and establish (Cavers & Harper, 1964).

Source: Published research

Q13: Invasiveness of Other Plants in Genus

Rating: Yes

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

Q14: Shade Tolerance

Rating: Moderate

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

Q15: Disturbance Tolerance

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

This species resprouts readily after fire or cutting (Cal-IPC, 2004).

Source: Informal publication, Professional expertise

Q16: Propagule Persistence

Rating: >20 years

Confidence: High

All published research reviewed in Cavers and Harper (1964) demonstrated buried seed viability of greater than 20 years.

Source: Published research

Q17: Palatability

Rating: Yes, plant is unpalatable

Confidence: High

This species is not palatable to most domestic grazers, but may be browsed by deer (Cavers & Harper, 1964).

Source: Professional expertise

Section 3: Ecological Impact

Q18: Impact on Ecosystem Abiotic Processes

Abiotic Processes: Nutrient dynamics, Light availability

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: Low

Source: Professional expertise

Q19: Impact on Ecosystem Structure

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

Q20: Impact on Ecosystem Composition

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

Q21: Impact on Particular Native Species

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

Q22: Observed Ability to Invade Undisturbed Ecosystems

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: High

Often establishes in disturbed portions of native plant communities, but rarely persists without ongoing disturbance or severe soil compaction.

Source: Professional expertise

Q23: Observed Ability to Invade Naturally Disturbed Ecosystems

Rating: Yes

Confidence: High

Readily establishes in ecosystems with frequent flooding or fire.

Source: Professional expertise

Section 4: Management Difficulty

Q24: General Management Difficulty

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: High

This species is rarely deemed to be a management priority but is likely easily managed with herbicide.

Source: Professional expertise

Q25: Minimum Time Commitment

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: High

While seeds may remain viable in the soil for some time, this species is rarely a management target.

Source: Professional expertise

Q26: Impacts of Management on Native Species

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: High

Since this species is not managed, collateral damage is nonexistent.

Source: Professional expertise

Q27: Inaccessibility of Invaded Areas

Rating: Low

Confidence: Moderate

Source: Professional expertise

Q28: Sociopolitical Implications of Management

Rating: Insignificant

Confidence: High

Source: Professional expertise

Additional Comments

None

References

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