

Why curly dock should be removed from PBH and how it can be done.



Curly dock is an extremely aggressive and prolific weed. It dominates large areas of the flats around Boulder and has started to move along roads up into Pine Brook Hills. This photo shows solid curly dock with mature seed along Pearl Parkway west of 55th Street.

When dock is established, it obliterates native plants and it is difficult to remove. A mature plant produces thousands of seeds every year – the seeds can remain viable in the soil for 50 years. Topped plants regenerate from the root.

In 2022 dock was removed from public roadsides in lower PBH. It has spread onto private lots. If residents learn to recognize and properly remove this plant, we can limit the harm it causes to our native plants and critters (they don't eat dock).

The following information describes how to recognize, report, and remove this threat.

Equipment that makes the work easy and fun includes a by-pass clipper, plastic yard bags to contain the seed heads, and the Radius Root Slayer. Leaves and stems can be left on the ground to rot.



Large dock (near Two Mile Creek) is easy to find and remove.



Smaller dock mixed with other plants (at the end of North Cedar Brook Road) is hard to find and remove.



Green seeds remain attached to the stem, but ripe seeds easily detach and are lost. Gently handle and bag each ripe seed head as it is cut. The Root Slayer digging tool is 39 inches long.



Mature curly dock seeds.



A large dock's foliage has been clipped, its seed heads bagged, and the root must be severed far below the surface.



The Root Slayer's chisel point cut this root deep enough to prevent regrowth.

Article and photos by Jim Adams



This plant was removed at 6:00 a.m. to avoid speeding traffic at a location where escape would be difficult.



When working along roadsides beware the reckless speeders.



A color-boosted image of large dock in an unsafe location.

When you see this plant, please report the nearest address to Forest Health - BeetleBusters at forest.health.bb@gmail.com