

# Management strategies

## How to treat

Docks seed or root fragments are usually spread via human activities and machinery (contaminated soil on machines or clothing), however can also be spread via natural means such as winds or flooding. The most effective means of controlling docks infestations is to prevent it from establishing in the first place through competitive pasture growth.

### 1. Treating small patches or limited infestations

Where the infestation is small, docks can be physically removed; however, it is recommended to remove it from the soil at least 20 cm below the base of the plant. It is best to use a plant removal tool or a fork instead of your hands, as big enough pieces of the root system that are left in the soil can re-grow. Cultivation (turning over the soil to expose the roots of the plant) is an effective method of control for seedlings; however older plants may require repeated cultivations. Using Vigilant II to treat leaves of actively growing plants will be useful.

### 2. Treating more extensive infestations

For more extensive infestations, continued slashing can reduce the density to allow for more economic use of Starane Advanced as a foliar spray at a mix rate of 300 mL per 100 L of water (3 mL per 1 L of water).

## For best results

Spraying before the flowering stem develops will minimise the herbicide required and provide the best control while preventing seeding.

Mowing or slashing the plant just before flowering will temporarily delay seed production but this is not an effective long-term strategy as docks can regrow entire plants from small sections of taproot remaining in the soil.

## Treatment tips

- Avoid treating if the plant is damaged or under stress due to unfavourable growing conditions. Pay particular attention to waterlogged soils.
- If the pasture has been mown or slashed allow time for docks to redevelop sufficient leaf area.



## Docks

(*Rumex* spp.)



**Starane<sup>®</sup>**  
Advanced  
HERBICIDE



# Docks (*Rumex* spp.)

## Description

Docks are exceedingly difficult to identify accurately in the vegetative (non-flowering) stage. Most species, including the commonly-found curled dock, grow to around 1 m in height. Docks are long-lived perennials and develop a deep tap root. They usually germinate in autumn and develop into rosettes through the winter. A flowering stem emerges in spring and the seed matures through summer. The stems usually die back during autumn and the plants over-winter as rosettes.

The stems of the plant are relatively thick and hollow, usually hairless and somewhat fleshy

in nature. The leaves of the plant vary in size depending on their position on the stem; however, they are usually arrow or heart shaped. The rosette (crown leaves at the base) are typically 20–25 cm long with a rounded tip and base, while further up the stem they reduce in size to become much shorter and narrower.

The flowers grow in clusters at the tip of the stem and are made up of three small petals each, growing on stalks typically around 5–6 mm long, while the fruit is a small three-sided nut surrounded by three papery segments.

## Timing

Product	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug
Grazon® Extra Herbicide	✓	⚙	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	⚙	⚙	⚙	⚙	✓
Starane® Advanced Herbicide	✓	⚙	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	⚙	⚙	⚙	✓	✓
Vigilant® II Herbicide	✓	✓	⚙	✗	✗	✗	✗	⚙	⚙	⚙	✓	✓

### KEY:

- ✓ Best time to spray/treat
- ⚙ Can spray/treat if conditions are suitable
- ✗ Do not spray/treat

## Herbicides for control of docks

Product <sup>#</sup>	Method of application	Rate <sup>†</sup>	State
<b>Starane® Advanced Herbicide</b>	Foliar spray	300 mL/100 L of water	All
Grazon® Extra Herbicide	Foliar spray	350 or 500 mL/100 L of water	All
Hotshot® Herbicide	Foliar spray	700 mL/100 L of water	All
Tordon® 75-D Herbicide	Foliar spray	75 or 150 mL/100 L of water	NSW, Qld, SA, Vic, WA
Trezac® Arylex® active Herbicide	Foliar spray	200 mL + 300 mL Starane® Advanced/100 L of water	All
Vigilant® II Herbicide	Foliar spray	Neat: wipe over 50% leaf area	All

<sup>#</sup> Note: Preferred product option in bold. <sup>†</sup> Consult label for details of growth stage and use, especially where range of rates is given.



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