

Dock, *Rumex* spp.



Identification: Various: Erect perennials, alternate oblong to lanceolate leaves, whorls of small fruits encased in 3-winged parianth (shape of parianth parts is best way to distinguish between species). Stems usually unbranched below inflorescence, nodes slightly swollen, lower leaves long-stalked, stipules membranous, fused and sheathing stem above nodes, small greenish flowers in whorls at upper stem nodes

Habitat: Moist areas, cultivated lands, pastures, ditchbanks, waste areas

Animals Affected: Sheep and horses, cattle less susceptible

Toxin family: Oxalate accumulator: not a common source of oxalate poisoning, but *Rumex* spp. will cause poisoning if eaten in excess

Other: May cause irritation to the skin and digestive tract.

Dangerous levels are rare. Can cause hypocalcemia.

Toxin is detoxified by the rumen except if eaten in large quantities. *Rumex* spp. in silage is not a critical problem