

Rumex crispus* L.*Yellow Dock Root***Rumex Radix**Polygonaceae*

Yellow dock has a long history of use in the United States as a blood tonifier and purifier. Medicinally, it has been used as a general detoxifier with a specific use for skin conditions. Yellow dock is sometimes found as an adulterant to goldenseal root. For a differentiation between these species, see *Hydrastis*.

Transverse section: Thin cork; sclereids occur frequently directly beneath the cork; outer parenchyma and secondary phloem of thin-walled parenchyma with large intercellular spaces; calcium oxalate cluster crystals are

abundant, up to 45 μm diameter; sclereids are occasionally in secondary phloem; secondary xylem of young roots is free of fibers; older roots have a continuous ring of fibers and vessels interior to the vascular cambium; interior to this ring is parenchyma with scattered small groups of vessels and calcium oxalate cluster crystals; vessels up to 110 μm diameter.

Longitudinal section: Sclereids are frequent just interior to the cork; up to 120 μm long, sclereids of the secondary phloem are considerably axially elongated; bordered-pitted and scalariform vessels.

Starch: Abundant in all parenchyma cells; simple, elliptical or ovoid granules, 4–22 μm diameter.

Powder: Frequent fragments of parenchyma cells with calcium oxalate cluster crystals; bordered-pitted or scalariform vessels; cork; occasional sclereids; starch (water).

