Curly dock
*Rumex crispus* L.

**Life cycle**
- Erect, taprooted simple perennial.

**Leaves**
- Alternate, long and narrow with round to pointed tips and wavy margins. Leaves are shaped like bacon strips.

**Stems**
- The plant forms a basal rosette that bolts prior to flowering, unbranched, reaching 3 to 4 feet in height. A membranous sheath (ocrea) surrounds the stem at the base of each petiole.

**Flowers and fruit**
- Flowers are small, usually greenish and found in clusters on the upper stems; they become reddish brown at maturity. The seed is enclosed in a single-seeded, shiny, reddish brown, three-sided fruit.

**Reproduction**
- Seeds and fleshy taproot.

Polygonaceae (Smartweed family)
Curly dock
*Rumex crispus* L.

Curly dock seedling.

Similar weeds
**Broadleaf dock** (*R. obtusifolius* L.)
Differs by having much wider, broader leaves and usually heart-shaped leaf bases.

Polygonaceae (Smartweed family)