



## Golden Dock (*Rumex maritimus*)



### Biodiversity Action Plan | Cummey Yannoo Beiyen-Feie

#### Background

The Golden Dock is a much-declined species on the Isle of Man, being threatened with local extinction.

This Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) has been reformatted from a Rare Species Action Plan, produced by Wildflowers of Mann in 2004, and approved by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry in the same year.

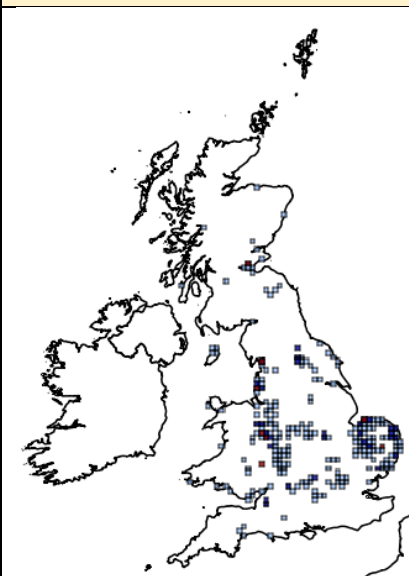
#### Description



Low to short erect plant which is golden yellow in fruit.

*Photo credit – Liz Charter – Nappin Dubs, Jurby*

#### British Isles Distribution



<b>Isle of Man Distribution</b>		
The Isle of Man is towards the northern end of the plant's regional range, and the species is associated with some of the warmer, sunnier parts of the north of the Island. It has been found in ponds along with the Cranstal Drain in the parishes of Andreas, Jurby and Bride.		
<b>Habitat and Ecology</b>		
It is a species of inundated, bare mud, particularly ponds. Unlike most docks, it is an annual, and is rather attractive when in flower.		
It has a long-lived seed bank and can reappear after disturbance events. The clearing of the Ballacunner Dub (around 2002) was one such event, which allowed an explosion of Golden Dock onto all the spoil heaps. It is tolerant of slightly saline soils, but is not restricted to coastal sites. The most common habitats are fairly fertile ponds, with stock access and a summer drawdown zone.		
<b>Legal protection</b>		
Listed on Schedule 7 of the Wildlife Act 1990 and black-listed under <i>Plants of Conservation Concern in the Isle of Man 2022</i> (review required to place on red-list).		
<b>Threats</b>		
One of its strongholds was the Ballakinnag Dub, however, this dub no longer has cow or goose disturbance around the pond edge, and the plant has not been recorded here for over a decade.		
The nearby site at Ballacunner did, as explained above, have a flush of Golden Dock after a pond restoration project. However, the pond has since shaded over, and Golden Dock no longer appears here. It doubtless still exists in the seed bank.		
<b>Reason for BAP</b>		
The species is only present in seed banks and in cultivation.		
<b>Aims</b>		
Having one or two Island sites, where the species can be recorded in most years, will ensure the long-term survival of the species, as the seed bank in historic sites begins to fail (the viability is at least 40 years, but no exact figures are available).		
<b>Linked BAPS</b>		
Celery-leaved Buttercup, Pink Water-speedwell, Greater Pond-sedge and Greater Spearwort.		
<b>Delivery Options</b>	<b>Active</b>	<b>Challenges</b>
<b>Delivery Plan</b>		
<b>Strategy</b>		<b>Lead</b>
The plant almost certainly has a viable seed bank in many of its historic sites and the lack of recent records should, in no way, give the impression that the species is now extinct in the wild.		Manx Wildlife Trust



It is maintained by the Wildflowers of Mann in cultivation in small quantities, but this could be easily bulked up. Introductions of this species should be fairly simple, through the sowing of fresh seed in bare ground, in summer.			
<p>The Wildlife Park would appear to offer the greatest opportunity for bare, seasonal, grazed and fertile soils. However, summer grazing by park animals and wildfowl, may present a problem.</p> <p>MWT Lough Gat e Whing Nature Reserve is part of the pond cluster of Ballacunner and Ballkinnag Dubs and so has the correct soils. Disturbance may be more periodic, rather than annual. But on a rotation, this should mean that the plant should do well here in most years and start to develop a seedbed.</p> <p>Both sites are likely candidate receptor sites for trial. Further sites that have base-rich hydrology, seasonal wetness and grazing should be looked for as opportunities arise.</p>			Manx Wildlife Trust
<b>Action</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	
Maintain seed in cultivation at MWT Mullen e Cloie Nature Reserve.	2016 onwards	Wildflowers of Mann	
Sow seed in bare, inundated areas in Lough Gat e Whing, the Wildlife Park and other appropriate sites.	2016 onwards	Wildflowers of Mann	
Monitor.	2017-2021	Wildflowers of Mann	
<b>Annual Updates</b>			
<b>Year</b>			
2016	Seed growing successful.		
2017	Mass sowing at Wildlife Park in wet muddy habitat.		
2028	No plants seen at Wildlife Park and most muddy areas infilled with sand.		
2022	10 plants planted at MWT Billown Nature Reserve drawdown zones. Flowering and seeding well.		
2023	<p>No plants seen at MWT Billown Nature Reserve.</p> <p>E. Charter rediscovered population in a West Nappin Dub (in very small numbers) and provided the tenant farmer with advise on the best use of cattle grazing for this site.</p>		

