

Yellow Flag Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*)

Also known as water flag, common iris, and yellow iris.
Listed noxious weed in Oregon and Washington.

Threat: An aggressive invader in riparian areas and open water where it displaces native plants, traps sediment, and reduces available habitat for fish and waterfowl • Dense infestations restrict water flow in irrigation canals and flood control ditches, causing economic harm.

Description: An aquatic perennial that grows 3 to 4 feet tall
• Leaves are long, flattened, and sword-like • Attractive yellow flowers produced on erect plant stalks, with multiple flowers per stalk • The fruit capsules are large and angled with disk-like seeds
• Tolerant of submersion, low pH, high salinity, and anoxic soil.

History: Native to Europe • Introduced to North America in the early 1900s • Attractive and easy to cultivate, therefore popular in ponds and water gardens • Also planted for erosion control and sewage treatment.

Spread: Spreads quickly, by both rhizome growth and fragmentation and by water-dispersed seeds
• Large plant clumps form from lateral growth of rhizomes • Rhizomes can survive prolonged dry conditions • Reaches reproductive maturity in 2 years or less, and re-sprouts readily when cut, grazed, or burned

Control: Difficult to control on a large scale, the best control options are preventing spread and eradicating small populations • Never release water garden plants in natural areas, and do not design ponds or water features that drain into natural water bodies such as streams, lakes or wetlands, because plants, seeds, plant fragments, etc. can be transported into these systems • Rhizomes may be plowed up but can re-sprout from fragments • Some herbicide control has been effective • Yellow flag will continue to be a problem if planted by gardeners unaware of its invasive potential.

Alternatives: Japanese Iris (*Iris ensata*), 'Variegata' & cultivars; Siberian iris (*Iris sibirica*) and hybrids such as 'Butter and Sugar', 'Sunfisher' (both yellow blooming); Laevigata iris (*Iris laevigata*) and cultivars.

For more information:

Oregon Department of Agriculture- www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/weed_profile_yflagiris.shtml

Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board- http://www.nwcb.wa.gov/weed%20info/Iris_pseudacorus.html

University of Florida, Center for Aquatic and Invasive Plants- <http://aquat1.ifas.ufl.edu/seagrant/iripse2.html>



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4 COUNTY
Cooperative Weed
Management Area