

Weed Alert

Yellow Flag Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*)



Why is it a problem?

Although yellow flag iris is a beautiful garden ornamental, it is an aggressive invader. When plants are introduced into natural habitats such as ponds, marshes and other wetlands, they can form dense thickets and displace native species. Infestations can impact amphibians, birds, and other wetland animals. This highly invasive species, native to Europe and the Mediterranean, is listed as noxious in many parts of North America. In the West Kootenay, it is known in only a few locations, including Creston, Nancy Greene Lake, and the north shore of Nelson.

Key identifying traits

- "Wet-footed", growing in ditches, ponds, or other wet places (unlike many yellow garden irises that grow on dry land)
- Leaves are flat, erect, stiff, sword shaped, 1/2 to 1 inch wide, usually fanning out from base
- Showy, yellow flowers with 3 large downward facing sepals and 3 smaller upward pointing petals
- A few flowers can arise from each flower stalk
- Fruit capsules resemble hanging bunches of short green bananas when mature



What can YOU do?!

Prevent...

- Learn to identify plants
- Don't plant these plants to your pond or waterfront shorelines
- Research nursery and catalogue specimens before buying

Remove...

- Pulling and digging can work if all plant material is removed - avoid skin contact with resins
- Clip flower-heads before they go to seed to reduce seed spread
- Dispose of plant materials in bags in the dump, or burn them.

Replace...

- Replace yellow flag iris with a non-invasive iris species (*Iris ensata*, *laevigata*, *versicolor*, *robusta*) or with native cattail (*Typha latifolia*).

Report....

- Since little is known about the current distribution of yellow flag iris, please report sightings!

For more information, contact...

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