

Yellow Flag Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*)

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Erect perennial up to 1.2 metres tall and found in wet areas. Native of Europe and Africa. Introduced as an ornamental in the early 1900's.



Distribution

Limited distribution within the Southern Interior.

Please report **all** occurrences.



Quick ID

Showy yellow flowers.

Long, sword-like leaves.

Only completely yellow-flowered Iris in North America.

Forms dense colonies in wet areas.

Interesting Facts:

Has been used for erosion control, sewage treatment, and is known to remove metals from wastewater.

Can be toxic to humans and animals.

Yellow flag Iris continues to be sold through garden dealers.

Manual Treatment: Hand pulling or digging can successfully control small, isolated patches if the entire rhizome mass is removed and treatment is repeated every year for several years to weaken and eventually kill the plant. ***Wear gloves.***



Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
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Flowers: One to several large, yellow flowers on each stem; has three upward pointing petals and three downward pointing, tongue shaped sepals; often adorned with brown spots or purple veins.

Leaves and Stems: Leaves are 0.5 to 1 metres long, sword-like, flat, with pointy tips; 8 to 25 mm wide; raised midribs and smooth edges; arranged with sheathing, fan-like. Branched, flowering stems have few to no leaves.

Seeds: Fruit is an erect, three-chambered, glossy-green cylindrical capsule. Each chamber contains many disc-shaped, pitted, pale brown seeds densely packed in vertical rows.

Roots: Thick, fleshy rhizomes may extend 10 to 20 cm deep. Rhizomes often form horizontal mats, and can grow for several months without water.

Reproduction and Dispersal: By rhizomes and seeds. Seeds germinate and grow well after being burnt.

Habitat Preference: Found in moist soils near lakes and ponds, stream banks, irrigation ditches and wetlands.

