

Yellow Flag Iris

A Wetland Invasive Species

Species Overview

Yellow flag iris is an invasive perennial plant that easily establishes and spreads along shorelines, wetlands, and aquatic floating mats. Yellow flag iris escaped ornamental gardens and found its way into natural environments, colonizing shorelines and wetlands throughout Wisconsin

Identification

- Leaves are broad and sword shaped with a raised midvein and green to dark blue appearance
- Plants grow 3-5 feet tall
- Flowers bloom from April to June and are bright yellow with 3 large downward pointing petals
- Seeds are housed in a dark green capsule containing over 100 seeds
- Blue flag iris is a native look alike with very similar characteristics but has beautiful blue-purple flower
- Yellow iris "ornamentals" are very similar in appearance but are not found near water

Ecological Threat

- Yellow flag iris is an aggressive plant that forms dense stands along the water's edge and outcompetes native species
- Mature plants produce many seed that can float away and establish new populations
- All parts of the plant are poisonous to wildlife



Management

Manual removal

- Carefully remove seed capsules and/or dig the entire plant, place in a clear bag, and incinerate or send to a landfill with the bag labeled "Invasive plants—approved by DNR for landfiling"
- Never compost!
- Use caution and gloves as the sap from the plant may cause skin irritation

Herbicide

- Aquatic formulas can be used but may require a DNR permit, contact the local DNR aquatic plant management coordinator at 715-919-8059 to determine if a permit is needed

