



Yellow flag iris is a perennial that has been introduced in to the United States. It is native to Europe, Great Britain, North Africa and the Mediterranean region.

Yellow flag iris is a very popular ornamental plant for ponds, lakes, and other wet areas. It is widely sold in nurseries and local stores.

This plant has been used for medicinal purposes in the past, but is known to cause diarrhea and vomiting if ingested. Livestock will generally avoid this plant, but if eaten can cause sickness.

Resin from this plant can cause skin irritation in humans. It is recommended that you use gloves when handling this plant.

Where to get more information on Noxious Weeds:

Washington State Noxious Weed
Control Board

1111 Washington St.
Olympia, WA 98504-2560
(360)902-2053

Website:

<http://www.nwcb.wa.gov>

Washington State Department of
Agriculture

1111 Washington St.
Olympia, WA 98504-2560
<http://www.agr.wa.gov>

WSU Extension Office;
Cowlitz County
1946 3rd Avenue
Longview, WA 98632
(360)577-3014

Cowlitz County
Noxious Weed Control Board
Administration Annex Bldg.
207 Fourth Avenue N.
(360) 577-3117

<http://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/noxiousweeds/>

Yellow flag iris *Iris pseudacorus*



Cowlitz County Noxious Weed Control Board

Administration Annex Bldg. 1st Floor
207 Fourth Avenue N.
Kelso, WA 98626
(360)577-3117
(360)425-7760

Biological Control

Currently there no biological insects in place to combat this invasive noxious weed.

In the United States, muskrats are known to consume the rhizomes of this plant.



Yellow flag iris spreads both by rhizome fragments and by seed. Rhizome spread is the main means of spread, but seed germination is also a viable method. Water can carry both seeds and fragments a long distance downstream, aiding in the distribution of this species. One plant can produce between 30 to 50 seeds per season. Infestations of yellow flag iris are connected by very tight rhizome clusters and are very difficult to control once established.

Alternatives for this plant are: **Japanese iris (*Iris ensata*)**, **Sieberian Iris (*Iris sibirica*)**, or **Laevigata Iris (*Iris laevigata*)**. Check with your local master gardener's group for more non-invasive alternative.

Integrated Pest Management Control Measures:

Mechanical:

- **Digging** small infestations has shown to be successful if thorough collections of rhizomes and fragments can be made. Do not compost any parts of plant.
- Use gloves if handling this plant. Resin in plant may cause irritation on the skin

Cultural:

- Use of plastic **covering or landscape fabric** can be used in decreasing infestations. This method will not completely control iris plants from re-emerging.
- Yellow flag iris is listed as poisonous to cattle, even when plant is dry.

Biological:

- There are no biological controls in place for this noxious weed at this time. Preliminary studies are under way at this time and results are promising.

Chemical:

Spring foliar spray — Best when applied to growing plants in early spring to early Summer.

Brush-on application of herbicide — Applied to cut plants

Glyphosate* (Rodeo, Aquamaster)

Aquatic label use; requires an aquatic licensed applicator to apply near water
Check chemical labels for proper use, restrictions and relevant information.