

YELLOW-FLAG IRIS

invasive
fact sheet



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Yellow-flag iris invades Vermont's river and pond edges and forests. Its yellow flowers are easy to see from April through June.

The Problem

The roots and rhizomes of yellow-flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) create a dense mat that makes it impossible for wetland species to grow. Studies show these mats exclude native New England plants like arrow-arum (*Peltandra virginicus*), which is an important source of food for wildlife, such as wood ducks (*Aix sponsa*).

- *Alien Species in North America and Hawaii*, 1999



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yellow-flag iris



distinctive
yellow
flowers

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seed pods



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sword-like leaves

(Note: without a flower or fruit, invasive yellow-flag iris looks very similar to our native blue-flag iris)

Wise On Weeds!

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The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.

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To prevent seed production:

“Dead-head” an iris by cutting off the flowers each year. This will keep it from producing seeds but will not kill the iris — the plant may still spread by rhizome growth. Bag and dispose of the seeds in a landfill.

To remove plant:

Using a shovel, dig and pull out the entire plant, including all roots and rhizomes. Dry out root mass before composting.

— or —

Hand cut the plant at its base after it has leafed out. This must be done annually for three to four years.

CAUTION! This plant contains toxins that cause minor skin irritation. Wear appropriate clothing to prevent resinous substances from contacting skin.



Non-invasive Alternatives



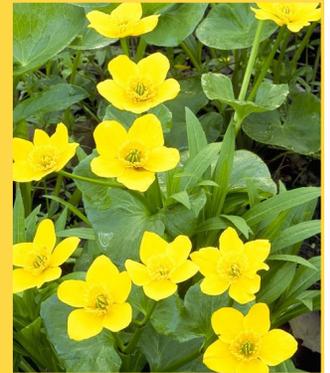
yellow lady's slipper
Cypripedium parviflorum



blue-eyed grass
Sisyrinchium spp.

marsh
marigold

*Caltha
palustris*



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blue-flag
iris

*Iris
versicolor*



Jim Stasz @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database