



Photo: Troy Abercrombie



**WESTERN INVASIVES
NETWORK**

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*****NOXIOUS WEED ALERT*****

Yellow Flag Iris

Yellow flag iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) is a perennial aquatic plant that is native to Europe, Asia and Africa. It was introduced as an ornamental in Oregon and has since become a nuisance for land managers across the state.

Why is it a problem?

Yellow flag iris is an extremely adept invader. Plants can spread by rhizomes, fragmentation and by seed. Over time, dense monocultures are formed and control becomes very difficult.

Stimulated by soil disturbance, incomplete manual removal can lead to vigorous regrowth. Plants, and even seeds, can survive burning as well. To make things worse, these plants can tolerate poor soil conditions that are unsuitable for some native plants.

Once established, yellow flag iris quickly creates dense monocultures that displace native vegetation, trap sediment and impede stream and irrigation flows. Large scale infestations can be cost prohibitive to treat due to the numerous survival tactics that the plants have developed.

Chemical treatments can be very effective but sometimes difficult due to unwanted collateral damage of natives. A combination of manual/chemical control can be effective over multiple years of treatment.

What Can You Do?

Don't plant it! While yellow flag iris is beautiful, many alternative plants exist such as monkeyflower (*Mimulus* sp.) and native irises such as Douglas and Rocky Mountain. After removal, riparian shrubs such as red osier dogwood may be beneficial for soil stabilization.

For more info on yellow flag iris:

[ODA Profile](#)

[NOAA \(GLANSIS\)](#)

The Western Invasives Network is asking for your help in identifying populations of Yellow Flag Iris.

How Do I Report Yellow Flag Iris?

Report Online at:

<https://oregoninvasiveshotline.org/>

-or-

Call 1-866-INVADER

-or-

Contact [your local CWMA](#)



Yellow flag iris has taken over the banks of this small lake in Rockaway Beach, Oregon.
(Photo: Troy Abercrombie)



Yellow flag iris rhizomes form dense mats that can block streamflow, destroy habitat and displace native vegetation. (Photo: Troy Abercrombie)