

Yellow flag iris

Iris pseudacorus

Description

Conspicuous yellow iris.

Grows in leafy clumps up to 1 m.

Roots: Reddish brown, thick and fleshy (rhizomes).

Leaves: Long with a distinct midrib.

Flowers: Large and yellow in spring.

Often confused with other ornamental irises.



Yellow flag iris in flower (left), Yellow flag iris rapidly invades lake and pond edges (right)

Origin

Native of Europe. Introduced to New Zealand as a garden plant.

Where is it found?

Yellow flag iris is found mostly on the margins of lakes, ponds, rivers, drains, wetlands and sometimes in gardens.

How does it spread?

It's spread by seed, sprouting from spreading roots, dispersal by water and by people cultivating it.

Why is it a problem?

Yellow flag iris grows to form dense floating mats that exclude native plant and animal communities.

Infestations trap silt and encourage flooding when growing in flowing water.

Yellow flag iris is toxic to livestock. The dense stands hamper fishing and access to water.

Status as a pest plant in the Bay of Plenty

Yellow flag iris is a Containment Pest Plant in the Bay of Plenty Regional Pest Management Plan.

Rules require land occupiers to destroy any yellow flag iris on their properties.

It is an offence under the Biosecurity Act to propagate, sell, distribute, release or spread yellow flag iris in the Bay of Plenty.

Assistance may be available from Bay of Plenty Regional Council by way of approved programmes.

CAUTION: When using herbicide please **READ THE LABEL** thoroughly to ensure that all instructions and safety requirements are followed.

DISCLAIMER: Information in this fact sheet regarding herbicides does not necessarily appear on the labels of the products concerned. Bay of Plenty Regional Council does not accept liability for any damage that may arise from the use of herbicides at non-standard rates. Mention of product trade names implies neither endorsement of those products nor criticism of similar products not mentioned.

How do I get rid of it?

Manual

Small infestations can be removed by hand ensuring that all fragments of the roots and rhizomes are removed.

Spraying

Spray with glyphosate (e.g. Roundup® or similar).

With knapsack or CDAX unit use 300 ml per 10 L of water.

For more information contact a Bay of Plenty Regional Council Land Management Officer

