



**HAVE YOU SEEN THIS PLANT?**  
**It is an Emergent Invasive in Orange County**



## **YELLOW FLAG IRIS**

### ***Iris pseudacorus***

#### **[Known OC Sites & Status Updates](#)**

#### **Distribution map & info:**

- [calflora.org/cgi-bin/species\\_query.cgi?where-calrecnum=4358](http://calflora.org/cgi-bin/species_query.cgi?where-calrecnum=4358)
- [cal-ipc.org/ip/management/plant\\_profiles/Iris\\_pseudacorus.php](http://cal-ipc.org/ip/management/plant_profiles/Iris_pseudacorus.php)



Yellow Flag Iris is a large-growing, clump-forming member of the Iris family, native to Europe, western Asia and northwest Africa. An herbaceous flowering perennial plant, it grows to about 4 feet tall, with erect iris-like leaves. The flowers are bright yellow, up to 4 inches across, with the typical iris form, borne on 4-5-foot stems.

It has escaped from cultivation to establish itself as an invasive aquatic plant in many places worldwide. It has been banned in some areas but is still widely sold in others for use in gardens. Yellow Flag Iris grows best in very wet conditions; tolerating submersion, low pH, and anoxic soils. It can spread rapidly to create dense, monotypic stands, outcompeting other plants. It is tough to remove on a large scale; even ploughing the rhizomes is often ineffective.







The fruit is a dry capsule up to 3 inches long, containing numerous seeds. The plant spreads primarily by rhizomes but also by water-dispersed seed. It fills a similar niche to that of cattails and often grows with them, though usually in shallower water. While it is primarily an aquatic plant, the rhizomes can survive prolonged dry conditions.



The rhizome has historically been used as an herbal remedy, most often as an emetic. When applied to the skin or inhaled, the tannin-rich juices can be acrid and irritating.



The plant has the ability to take up heavy metals through its roots, so has use in natural water treatment applications.



## YELLOW FLAG IRIS, P. 2



### IF YOU SEE THIS PLANT AT A SITE THAT'S NOT ON THE LIST:

- Record the plant's location as exactly as you can (GPS coordinates if possible), the date you saw it, and an estimate of how many there were. Include the site's landowner or manager, if known.
- Take identifying photos: the whole plant & its surroundings, closeups of leaves, flowers & fruits/pods.
- If you take a sample, place it immediately into a sealed bag.
- To avoid spreading the plant, check your clothing and shoes thoroughly before leaving the area, and remove and bag all traces of seeds.
- Report the find immediately to [invasives@occnps.org](mailto:invasives@occnps.org).