

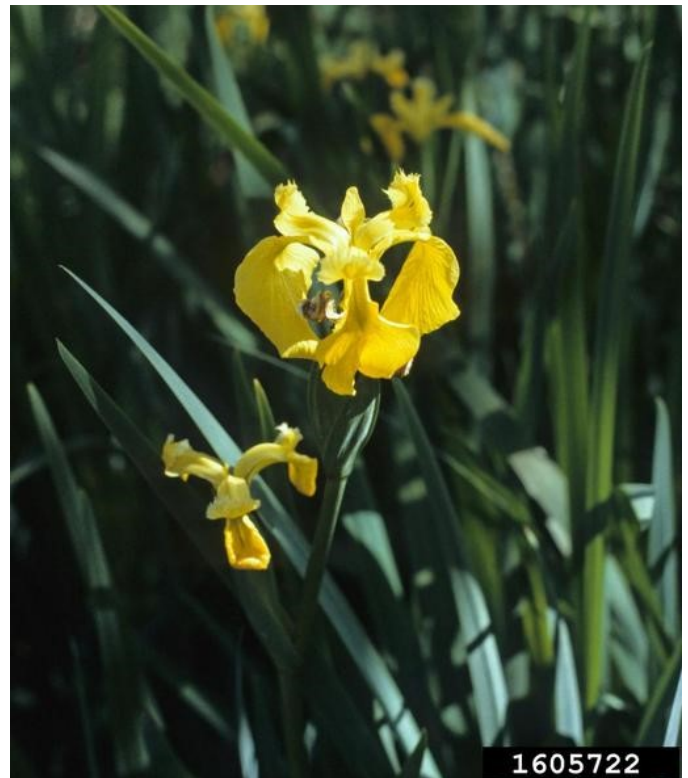
## *Iris pseudacorus*, Water Flag Iris

Yellow Flag Iris is an invader of wet habitats, located commonly at the edges of streams, ponds, in floodplains, marshes, and along shorelines. It is native to Europe, Asia, and northern Africa. This species spreads quickly and has a dense root system, thus crowding out the growth of native plants. In addition, parts of this iris are toxic to animals.



**Description:** The Yellow Flag Iris has flat, sword-like leaves with a raised midrib. The blades are dark blue/green with pointy tips, usually reaching a length of 25-90 cm. The seed pod is three sided and angular, each containing dozens of seeds arranged in three rows. These seed pods turn from a glossy green to a brown color as they ripen.

**Control:** Manual removal of small patches of this plant is possible, but only effective if all the rhizomes are removed. When handling this plant, gloves are advised due to the sap's ability to irritate skin. Aquatic-approved herbicides are also a way to control the spread, especially after the plant has been cut.



**Look-alikes:** The Yellow Flag Iris looks similar to the Northern Blue Flag Iris (*Iris versicolor*), although the flowers are blue rather than yellow. The seeds of Yellow Flag are also much larger than native iris species.

**Flower Time and Description:** The Yellow flag Iris begins flowering in late May to early July. The plants typically don't flower until the third year of growth. The flowers of this Iris are pale to bright yellow and are about 7-9 cm long.

