

# Yellow flag iris

*Iris pseudacorus* L.

Iridaceae

## Key identifying traits

- ❑ Leaves are flat, erect, stiff, sword shaped, 1/2 to 1 inch wide, usually fanning out from base
- ❑ Showy, yellow flowers with 3 large downward facing sepals and 3 smaller upward pointing petals
- ❑ A few flowers can arise from each flower stalk
- ❑ Fruit capsules resemble hanging bunches of short green bananas when mature

## Biology and ecology

- A perennial forb of shorelines and wetlands reproducing by seeds and rhizomes
- Can form very dense patches, excluding natives
- Has been used medicinally and as a source of dye
- Native to Europe and the Mediterranean region
- Introduced as an ornamental water plant
- Will sicken livestock if ingested- contact with resins can cause human skin irritation

## Control

*Prevention* - Learn to identify plants; know your water bodies; don't transplant these pretty plants to your home pond or waterfront shorelines; research nursery and catalogue specimens before buying

*Biological* - None known or likely at this time due to it's similarity to garden iris

*Cultural* - Healthy native plant communities help reduce likelihood of establishment but don't stop it

*Mechanical* - Pulling and digging can work if all plant material is removed-avoid skin contact with resins

*Chemical* - Glyphosate is effective particularly on regrowth following cutting. Use of a dripless wick applicator has been recommended to avoid killing other plants or introducing herbicide into the water. Aquatic applicator license may be required.

*Where found* – Common along the shores of Lake Spokane, some at Loon Lake and could be along the shores of other water bodies in Stevens County

