

Yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*)



Yellow iris is a perennial plant that grows in wet areas and along shorelines. It can reproduce by seed and also spread vegetatively.

Appearance: Leaves and flowers grow above the water, up to 2-3 feet tall with yellow flowers.

Leaves and Stems: Leaves are broad, flat, sword-shaped, stalkless, and have parallel veins.

Flowers: Bloom from May through July. Two or three deep yellow per stalk. Flowers have three outer drooping sepals, which are yellow with brownish mottled markings, surrounding the true flower which is yellow.

Fruits and Seeds: Capsule containing dozens of smooth, flattened seeds resembling thick coins.

Rhizomes and Roots: Reproduces vegetatively through horizontal stems growing below the soil surface, called rhizomes, forming roots and producing new plants.

Origin and Spread: Native to Eurasia. Introduced as an ornamental plant and has spread from being planted along shorelines and wet areas. Seeds can spread via water.

Look-alikes: Northern blue flag iris (*Iris versicolor*) is a native MN iris and Bearded iris with yellow flowers (*Iris germanica*), a non-native MN iris are commonly misidentified as Yellow iris when the plants are not in bloom.

Regulatory classification: Yellow iris is a MN DNR regulated invasive species. It is legal to sell, buy, and transport regulated invasive species, but they may not be introduced into a free-living state, such as planted along shorelines because the plant can effectively spread to other areas of the water body by rhizomes and seed movement during times of high water.

Control Methods: Both mechanical and herbicide controls have proven to be effective. DNR permits are required to manage plants in public water.

References: Information contained in this brochure are excerpts from the MN DNR website.

Additional information and references are available at [Yellow iris \(*Iris pseudacorus*\) | Minnesota DNR \(state.mn.us\)](https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticplants/yellowiris/index.html) or (<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticplants/yellowiris/index.html>).