

Identification



YELLOW IRIS
INVASIVE



WILD IRIS
NATIVE, HARMLESS



YELLOW LILY
HARMLESS



See controlling information on next page

Controlling the Invasive Yellow Iris

The Yellow Iris (YI) looks pretty but is harmful because it forms very dense mats of rhizomes that crowd out native plant species and it spreads very easily via its seeds, which is why LAON is trying to control it. The YI is usually found along the shoreline or in shallow water. It is difficult to differentiate the YI from other reedy plants such as cattails, unless they are blooming, which is from **early June through the first week in July**. so that is the time to look for them. Since they do not all bloom at the same time, we need to keep an eye out that whole time period.

The primary way you can help is to: locate it; if possible, remove the flowers, which become seed pods; and notify us. It would be good if you could carry clippers and a couple of 6' fiberglass driveway markers with you. If you see any along the shoreline, here is what we ask, according to your ability:

1. If you have your cell phone, take a photo before cutting any flowers. Try to include some identifying feature, such as a house, an unusual tree, a rock, or a dock. Please turn on the location feature on your phone so coordinates of your photo will be recorded.
2. If you have a 6' fiberglass driveway marker in your boat, place it at the plant location.
3. Remove the flowers (Deadhead) to help prevent it from spreading. If you do deadhead, cut the green stem well below the flower (be careful not to cut through the seed pod which will cause the YI to spread). Place **all** flowers and seed pods in a zip lock bag and dispose of them at the Norway Transfer Station. The seeds remain viable at campfire temperatures thus the need for higher incinerator temperatures. You can dispose of the stems and other greens any way you wish.
4. A more difficult, but very helpful step would be to cut the greens down to the waterline. This would hopefully starve the plant by preventing further photosynthesis in the roots/rhizomes, although it could take years of repeated cutting to eventually kill the plant. Some people find the sap irritating to their skin, so consider wearing gloves.
5. Contact George Morton, Chair of the Shoreline Invasive Program (cell 207-838-2821 or email: bizmorton@yahoo.com) so he can continue to map where the Yellow Iris exist and give you further guidance.
6. Complete mitigation requires digging up the roots/rhizomes, but contact George first since if done improperly, could cause the plant to spread.