

# The Yellow Iris

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# Origin

The Yellow Iris is an aquatic, herbaceous plant. They normally grow to between three and four feet. Its flowers can be white, but are normally yellow.

The plant is native to Europe. It likely made its way to the United States as a decorative plant, not one with a practical purpose, due to its bright flowers.

# Ecosystem

The Yellow Iris is a plant which grows in dense colonies, very quickly and effectively. They are an aquatic plant, so they usually grow in marshes and near lakes or ponds. The Yellow Iris often push out other native species to the area, affecting the ecosystem around it. When certain plants are unable to fight for space in an ecosystem, all of the parts of the ecosystem which rely on these plants are affected. All parts of the plants are also poisonous, which is harmful for animals in the area, as well.

# Controlling the Yellow Iris

Controlling the Yellow Iris is a difficult task, because it grows so quickly and densely. The only real solution to keeping the Yellow Iris from invading your ecosystem is to remove it, which we will discuss later.

# Pictures



# Permits Required for Removal

In Minnesota, the removal of this plant requires a Department of Natural Resources Water Permit. Permits through the DNR are necessary for the removal of invasive plants such as these. Applying for a permit can be done online at the MN DNR website.

# Disposal

Disposal of the Yellow Iris can either be accomplished mechanically or chemically. This means that it can be removed either by physically taking it out, or using chemicals to stop its growth.

Mechanical: Digging to eliminate vegetative spreading (but use caution, because it can cause skin irritation), or burning it when your location allows.

Chemical: Spraying with general use herbicides, such as glyphosate

# Prevention

Because it is an invasive species, preventing the Yellow Iris is most easily done by making sure none are introduced to your ecosystem, and being able to recognize it so that if one is introduced, you can dispose of it immediately. It will be much easier to get rid of the Yellow Iris before it populates much of the land, so recognizing it sooner, rather than later, ensures that it will not dominate your ecosystem.



# Who to Contact

To request more information about this invasive species in your area, or to request a permit to remove it from your area, contact the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. They can provide you with a permit, if you apply for one, and have lots of information about the species.

# For More Information...

Check out these websites.

- MN Department of Natural Resources:  
<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/herbaceous/yellowiris.html>
- US Forest Service:  
[http://na.fs.fed.us/fhp/invasive\\_plants/weeds/yellow-iris.pdf](http://na.fs.fed.us/fhp/invasive_plants/weeds/yellow-iris.pdf)
- US Department of Agriculture:  
<http://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=IRPS>