

## Yellow flag\* (*Iris pseudacorus*)



*May form a dense floating mat*



*Pale-yellow to golden-orange flowers*

### \* Also known as Yellow flag iris

Yellow flag is a perennial invasive member of the iris family, growing in swampy ground, on the edges of fresh or brackish water bodies and in salt marshes. This iris is highly poisonous to livestock and humans.

The thick, creeping rhizome is brownish on the outside with many rootlets. This may form a dense floating mat which can spread out over shallow water. Broad, flat sword-shaped leaves emerge in fans from the reddish base. The flower stalk, with large pale-yellow to golden-orange flowers in October to December, is shorter than the leaves. The seed capsules contain many brown flattened seeds. The plant dies back to the rhizome in winter.

Wind disperses the smooth, flattened seeds and the plant also spreads by detached rhizome fragments and by deliberate plantings.

Small infestations can be removed by hand. Remove the seed heads then dig out the rhizome and dispose of the material carefully. Herbicide will control the plant, applied as a spray or by weed-wiper.

**Contact your Regional Council for advice on spraying over water and control options.**