YELLOW IRIS

Iris pseudacorus
Origin: Eurasia

INVASIVE RANKING, NYS
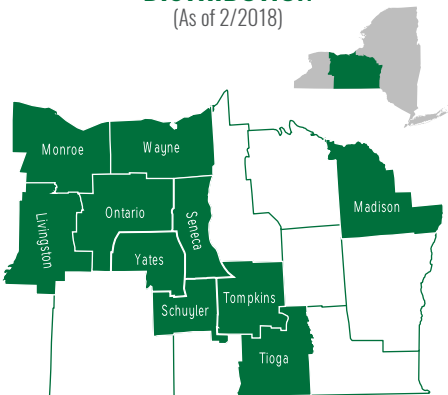High

MANAGEMENT STRATEGY
Physical
Chemical
Prevention

DISTRIBUTION
(As of 2/2018)

Monroe
Wayne
Livingston
Ontario
Seneca
Yates
Schuyler
Tompkins
Tioga
Madison

www.fingerlakesinvasives.org

Yellow iris is an herbaceous perennial plant that grows in clusters to 1.5 m tall, connected by rhizomes. The leaves are elongated and dark green with a gray-blue tint. Showy yellow flowers bloom between May and July. This species may be mistaken for the native blue flag (*Iris versicolor*). Flowers and fruits are important for identification. Blue flag does not grow in large, dense stands and has blue-purple flowers and three-angled fruit capsules that remain closed upon maturity. Yellow iris has yellow flowers and a six-angled fruit capsule that spreads into three wide segments upon maturity.

HABITAT
Yellow iris commonly grows in wetlands and on stream banks, ponds, and ditches. It is tolerant of a wide range of conditions.

THREAT
Yellow iris has escaped gardens and can form dense colonies. Such monocultures alter habitat and displace native species. This plant is also poisonous to livestock and other animals.

MANAGEMENT
New infestations may be prevented through education and awareness of invasive species and native garden species that may be more suitable to cultivate. Small-scale infestations may be removed by hand via digging, although resin can cause skin irritation. The entire root system must be removed to eliminate the plant. Removing the flowers and seed pods will help slow its dispersal. Large-scale infestations likely require multiple herbicide applications.

REFERENCE - Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. Invasive Plants in Pennsylvania, Yellow Flag Iris. PADCNR. http://www.docs.dcnr.pa.gov/cs/groups/public/documents/document/dcnr_010300.pdf
Sarver, M.J., A. Treher, L. Wilson, R. Naczi, and F.B. Kuehn, 2008. Mistaken Identity? Invasive Plants and their Native Look-alikes: an Identification Guide for the Mid-Atlantic. Dover, DE: Delaware Department of Agriculture and USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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Partnership for Regional Invasive Species Management