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## YELLOWFLAG IRIS MANAGEMENT TIPS

Yellowflag iris, a member of the Iris family, is a perennial forb that has bulbs and rhizomes for roots. The large flowers are pale to deep yellow in color, with three downward and three upward pointing petals. The dark green leaves are long and linear, and look similar to cattails. Yellowflag iris reproduces both by seed and rhizomes and usually grows two to five feet tall. It is commonly found in shallow water and wet places around lakes and ponds, and along stream banks. It can form dense stands that have the potential to outcompete native plants and can reduce the nesting frequency of waterfowl in wetlands. Yellowflag iris can clog channels and ditches, and has the potential to impede water flow. This plant also interferes with the regeneration of willow and cottonwood, consequently reducing cover and food availability for wildlife.



**Management and control efforts must be planned for many years at the existing site in order to monitor for and treat any new plants that emerge from rhizomes and seeds.**

## **Effective control measures for the management of yellowflag iris include:**

- 1. Mechanical (digging):** Digging or grubbing rhizomes may be effective if all rhizomes are removed. Follow-up management will be needed to remove any rhizomes that were missed and any new plants that emerge. Wear gloves when digging plants.
- 2. Herbicide: Always follow directions on the label. The label is the law!** Calibrate your equipment to ensure that you are adding the proper amount of herbicide to your tank. The following herbicides are commonly used to control yellowflag iris.

### **Mixing rates are as follows:**

Aquatic Glyphosate:      5 to 8 % solution (6.5oz to 10oz herbicide per 1 gallon of water or  
5 gallons to 8 gallons herbicide per 100 gallons of water).

**Note:** Be sure to use a surfactant with an aquatic label if the herbicide does not contain a surfactant in the formula. Vegetable or methylated seed oil based surfactants should be used because they are safer than non-ionic surfactants for aquatic animals and amphibians.

- 3. Cultural (revegetation):** Planting desirable plant species may be necessary after the treatment of dense populations of yellowflag iris with herbicide, particularly in areas of moving water where erosion is possible.
- 4. Integrated management:** Management of yellowflag iris is more effective when more than one strategy is used.