

# ! Help Stop The Spread Of Yellow Flag Iris !

## An Invasive Threat To Arrowhead's Lakes And Wetlands

### WHAT IS YELLOW FLAG IRIS?

It's a tall wetland plant with bright yellow flowers that bloom in late spring. While attractive, it is a **regulated invasive species** in PA and poses a **serious threat** to our lakes, wetlands, and shoreline habitats.



### WHY IS IT A PROBLEM?

**Yellow Flag Iris spread aggressively by:**

**Underground Rhizomes:** dense root systems expand outward, creating large colonies

**Floating Seeds:** Each seed pod can contain dozens of seeds that float on water and colonize new shoreline areas. Just two plant clusters can produce more than 1,500 seeds in a single season!

**Left unchecked, Yellow Flag Iris can:**

- Crowd out native plants
- Reduce habitat for wildlife and pollinators
- Create dense monocultures along shorelines
- Reduce the biodiversity needed for a healthy ecosystem

### IF YOU FIND IT ON YOUR PROPERTY: REMOVE IT BEFORE IT SPREADS

- Cut and bag all flowers and seed pods immediately (use gloves and eye protection as it's sap can be an irritant)
- If possible, carefully dig up the entire plant, including the root system
- Place all plant material in sealed garbage bags
- Dispose of it with household trash.



### DO NOT:

- Compost it
- Leave cut plants on the shoreline
- Throw seed pods into the woods or lake
- Replant or share divisions with neighbors

Even small plant fragments can survive and spread

### CONSIDER A NATIVE ALTERNATIVE

Instead of Yellow Flag Iris, plant Native Blue Flag Iris which provides similar beauty while supporting Pennsylvania's natural ecosystems.

### EVERY PLANT REMOVED HELPS PROTECT OUR LAKES

By removing Yellow Flag Iris from your property, you help preserve Arrowhead's shorelines, wetlands, wildlife habitat and water quality for future generations.

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