



## Yachats Weed of the Month – May 2024

### Yellow Flag Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*)

**Identification:** Yellow Flag Iris is a perennial, aquatic, herbaceous plant which grows 2 to 3 feet tall along shores in shallow water. Rhizomes spread and form large clumps. The leaves are broad, flat and sword shaped. The plants are generally much bigger and more vigorous than other iris species. The flowers are yellow with brownish-purple mottle markings.

**Impact:** This Yellow Flag Iris readily escapes from cultivation and invades damp areas and shallow water. It can easily choke small waterways, to the exclusion of all other plants. All parts of the plant are toxic, and its resins can cause skin irritation in humans. In our region it is a serious problem in Beaver Creek (between Waldport and Newport), but it is also present on the Yachats River and in ditches alongside Highway 101. The plants spread by seed and by extensive underground rhizomes.

**Management:** Be sure to wear good gloves when dealing with these plants and avoid contact with the sap. It is important to dig up all parts of the rhizomes as even small fragments can resprout. Bag all plant parts for disposal. And if you see them for sale at a nursery, do not be tempted!

**Contact information:** Call Wally at 541 606 0055 if you have any questions. For more weed info, go to [www.yachatstrails.org](http://www.yachatstrails.org)

Yachats “Weed of the Month” is an informational service brought to you by the Yachats Trails Team.

