



## *Iris foetidissima*

### **Common Name(s):**

stinking iris

### **Current Threat Status (2009):**

Exotic

### **Habitat:**

Terrestrial. A plant of coastal and lowland habitats (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995). A plant of low forest, scrub and forest margin communities, also found in waste places (Timmins & MacKenzie 1995).

### **Features:**

Clump-forming perennial to 80 cm. Rhizomes red-brown, up to 15 mm diameter. Leaves leathery, dark green, broad, sword shaped, 15-25 mm x 60-100 cm, foul smelling when crushed. Flowering stem 60-80 cm, erect. Flowers up to 10 cm diameter, dull yellow with greenish-brown markings (Occasionally brownish-purple). Seed capsule green, 3-sided, 5 cm long, splitting issuing many scarlet round seeds, 5 mm diameter.

### **Flowering:**

November, December

### **References and further reading:**

Johnson, A. T. and Smith, H. A (1986). *Plant Names Simplified: Their pronunciation, derivation and meaning.* Landsman Bookshop Ltd: Buckenhill, UK.

### **For more information, visit:**

[http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora\\_details.asp?ID=3309](http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=3309)



**Caption:** Doctors Point

**Photographer:** John Barkla



**Caption:** *Iris foetidissima*

**Photographer:** John Smith-Dodsworth