



Iris pseudacorus

Common Name(s):

yellow flag iris

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Distribution:

Widely naturalised, it is scattered throughout both main islands being locally abundant in the Waikato and the margins of the Avon River in Christchurch.

Habitat:

Still and slow flowing water bodies, wetlands and reported from salt marshes overseas.

Features*:

Tall marginal summer-green perennial. Dark green, leafy clumps. Leaves sword-shaped, 2-3 cm wide that shred to fibres when old. Stems round with several long leaves; leaves emerging in fans from reddish base. All parts odourless when crushed. Rhizomes up to 3 cm diameter. The flower stalk is stout, flowers are yellow (occasionally pale cream) and up to 12 cm across. The capsule is up to 5 cm long with brown flattened disc like seeds. Plants growing over water can form rafts of floating rhizomes, strong enough to support the weight of a human.

Flowering:

September to December

Fruiting:

December to March

*Attribution:

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA).

References and further reading:

Champion et al (2012). Freshwater Pests of New Zealand. NIWA publication.

<http://www.niwa.co.nz/freshwater-and-estuaries/management-tools/identification-guides-and-factsheets/freshwater-pest-species>.

Johnson PN, Brooke PA (1989). Wetland plants in New Zealand. DSIR Field Guide, DSIR Publishing, Wellington. 319pp.

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

Popay et al (2010). An illustrated guide to common weeds of New Zealand. NZ Plant Protection Society Inc, 416pp.

Sculthrope CD (1967). The biology of aquatic vascular plants. Edward Arnold Publishers, London. 160pp.

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=3315



Caption: Isle of Mull, Scotland

Photographer: John Sawyer



Caption: Habitat of *Iris pseudacorus*

Photographer: Rohan Wells,
NIWA