

FLOWERING RUSH

Invasive Species Alert!

IMPACTS OF FLOWERING RUSH

Flowering Rush was brought to North America as an ornamental. This invasive species can grow from any plant fragment, allowing it to easily spread and create dense colonies. Negative impacts include:



reducing biodiversity

Colonies use resources and space, outcompeting native plant species.



reducing water quality

Flowering Rush increases nutrient levels, algal blooms and water turbidity, negatively impacting fish communities.



impacting bird nesting

Dense colonies can alter bird nesting and rearing habitats, making them less suitable.



impacting recreation

Populations can interfere with boating, swimming and fishing.



IDENTIFICATION

- ✓ Erect stems can grow to 150 cm.
- ✓ Green, sword-shaped leaves originate at the base of plants.
- ✓ Flowers are formed from pink petals and sepals.
- ✓ Flowers are in umbrella-shaped clusters.

REPORT



SCAN ME

Report Flowering Rush sightings on-line or through the **EDDMapS** app.

EDDMapS
find • map • track



DO...

- ✓ clean, drain and dry your boat before leaving a waterbody.
- ✓ burn or dispose of aquarium and water garden plants in sealed garbage bags.
- ✓ educate yourself regarding native and non-native plant species.
- ✓ plant only native species on your property (local seed sources are best).
- ✓ encourage local nurseries to sell native plant species.

NATIVE ALTERNATIVES



Cory T. Burns

CARDINAL FLOWER *Lobelia cardinalis*

Cardinal Flowers have bright red flowers with three lower and two upper petals. The flowers bloom from late summer to early fall, lasting one to two months.

NORTHERN BLUE FLAG *Iris versicolor*

The Blue Flag is an iris with blue-violet petals that are yellow at the base. The flowers bloom from May to June and are often found along streambanks and shorelines.



S. K. Howard



N. Nehring

SWAMP MILKWEED *Asclepias incarnata*

Swamp Milkweed has opposite leaves with smooth margins. The stems end in bunches of pink, umbel-shaped flower masses that bloom for around one month in the late summer. This species is an important host plant for Monarch caterpillars.

DON'T...

- ✗ buy, sell, trade or give away Flowering Rush.
- ✗ use Yellow Iris as an alternative for Flowering Rush as this species is also invasive.
- ✗ plant store-bought aquatic plants in local watercourses or ponds that are not man-made.
- ✗ release plants, fish or invertebrates from water gardens into local creeks, streams, lakes or ponds.