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# Yellow Iris

*Iris pseudacorus*



This iris is ornamental, but in Maine is rated **severely invasive**, and is toxic to grazing animals. Yellow iris resembles more common irises, but:

- Leaves are stiff and greyish, up to 3' long and 1.5" wide.
  - Roots are thick rhizomes with black sap, pink-fleshed and ½-1½" in diameter, and fragments will sprout.
  - Flowers in May-July are most often yellow, but can be white to cream, several flowers per stem.
  - Seed heads are 6-sectioned capsules about 2" oblong, with about 120 seeds per capsule, which can germinate even after a burn.
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## HOW TO CONTROL:

- Pull or dig persistently. Protect skin from resins in leaves and roots that cause irritation. All root fragments must be removed to avoid re-sprouting. Seeds can germinate and roots sprout even after being burned. Bag and discard plant parts.
- A combination of mechanical and chemical treatment may be necessary. If beyond 25' from water, apply 25% glyphosate in a dripless wick applicator to cut stems and leaves. Or, apply 2-8% glyphosate after first fall frost.

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# Sources

## Yellow Iris

Invasive Plant Atlas of New England;

[www.invasive.org](http://www.invasive.org);

[https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive\\_plants/iris.htm](https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive_plants/iris.htm)

## Controls

[https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive\\_plants/iris.htm](https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive_plants/iris.htm)

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