

Removal Methods for Yellow Iris and Water Lilies

Aquatic and shoreline plants are in the growing season again. Weed treatment for Lake Leprechaun has begun and Lake Limerick treatment is scheduled to begin mid-July. The treatment of Yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) and fragrant water lilies (*Nymphaea odorata*) are going to be limited in areas of each lake. For areas where these plants are vigorously growing, homeowners can help control the spread of these invasive species.

Equipment and Materials

Several tools will be helpful for removing plants along the shoreline and in the nearshore area of your property. Since mechanical removal can be accomplished by homeowners, a small tool list will include:

- Gloves
- Pruning Shears
- Shovel or Weed Hook
- Rake
- Burlap Barrier (Burlap sacks with pea gravel)

Methods

Yellow Iris

Yellow iris produces a flower that promotes growth of the individual plants. The flower appears from April through July and plants grow in wet areas.



Begin control and removal of this plant using the following steps:

Step 1. Use your gloves (avoid skin contact with plant fluid as fluids cause irritation).

Step 2. Cut the flower stock (stem) below the triangle shaped seed pod.

Step 3. Grasp the plant as far down the stalk as possible and pull out including the rhizome.

Step 4. Dig out the rhizome if not removed with hand-pulling.

Step 5. At the very least, reduce growth and spread of this plant by removing the flower stock (Step 2).

Step 6. Dispose of weeds in the garbage and do not deposit in your yard compost.

If the Yellow iris is located in water, an additional step may be required to control the spread should rhizomes remain. A bottom barrier can be placed over the area using rocks as anchors. The bottom barrier can be made of PVC pond liner to starve the rhizomes of oxygen. Alternatively, a bottom barrier can be burlap strips and anchored in place with pea gravel-filled sacks. Burlap barriers will be effective for 2 to 4 years, but can be replaced within that time frame to keep plants under control.

Roots (rhizomes) submerged in water can continue to grow and spread.

The following is a Fact Sheet describing a detailed control options for Yellow iris.

[Invasive Plant Control: Yellow Flag Iris | Snohomish County, WA - Official Website](#)

[20YellowIris.pdf](#)

[Mason County Noxious Weed Control Program](#)

Fragrant Water Lily

Invasive water lilies in the lakes produce a showy pink or white flower (rosette) and are called fragrant water lily (*Nymphaea odorata*).



These are aquatic plants with floating leaves and are removed by mechanical methods.

Begin control and removal of this plant using the following steps:

Step 1. Cut water lilies and repeat 4-6 times per season to gain control over spread and further infestation.

Step 2. Using a shovel or weed hook, dig up rhizomes and remove from the infested location.

Step 3. Dispose of weeds in the garbage and do not deposit in your yard compost.

Step 4. Place bottom barriers over the treated area and anchor with pea gravel bags. Be aware of the time for deployment. Synthetic barriers must be removed after two years of deployment. Burlap can be left and will biodegrade over time.

The following are Fact Sheets describing detailed control options for fragrant water lily.

[Invasive Plant Control: Fragrant Waterlily | Snohomish County, WA - Official Website](#)

[Fragrant water lily \(*Nymphaea odorata*\) - King County Noxious Weed Factsheet](#)

[Mason County Noxious Weed Control Program](#)