

Paleyellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*)

Also called: Yellow flag iris

Family name: Iris (Iridaceae)

Native range: Europe

NJ Status: Emerging Stage 2 – Uncommon (may be regionally common or abundant). It is *highly threatening* to natural plant communities. Eradicate all detected occurrences.

General description:

- Herbaceous clump-forming perennial
- 3'-4' tall
- Strong roots, that are pink in color



Leaves:

- Broad, sword-shaped, emanating from a central base
- About 1.6'-3.3' long
- Stiff, upright
- Glaucous (waxy coating)



Flowers:

- Showy, bright yellow, (occasionally whitish to cream-colored)
- Multiple flowers grow on each stem
- Individual flowers 2.75"-3.5" wide
- Blooms late April-June



Fruit:

- 6-angled seed capsule containing up to 120 seeds
- Mature capsule opens into 3 widely spreading segments
- Seeds mature from white to brown
- Ripens in July-August



Habitat:

- Floodplain forest, marsh, wet meadow, shores
- Tolerates water up to 10" deep
- Tolerates salt, drought and some pollution

Commercial availability: Yes

Look-alikes:

Northern blue flag iris (*Iris versicolor*)

- Native iris
- Purple to blue flower, with a small yellow patch on sepals
- Fruit capsules are 3-angled, remaining closed at maturity
- Roots not pink



Blue flag's purple flowers, with some yellow on the sepals



German iris (*Iris germanica*)

- Non-native iris, occasionally escaped
- Flowers variable in size and color, but petals always bearded (fuzzy)
- Fruit capsules are 3-angled, remaining closed at maturity

German iris is an occasional garden escape

