

Grow Me Instead

Invasive Plants and Safe Alternatives



Invasive Plant

Yellow Flag Iris, also known as Yellow Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*)

Native to Europe, Yellow Flag Iris is used as a garden plant in wet areas, and is quite beautiful. However, when it is grown around shorelines/pond edges, it can form dense stands which may eventually block shoreline access and grow dense mats of vegetation which can change water's edge areas to dry habitat.



Safe Alternative

Blueflag Iris (*Iris versicolor*)

Native to Ontario, Blueflag Iris has showy bluish purple flowers which can bloom anytime from May to August. It grows in small clumps, and can be up to 90 cm tall. It is low-maintenance, and can grow in full sun to partial shade, usually in shallow water or along the water's edge. It especially grows well where there are existing reeds or grasses. It makes a beautiful and beneficial addition to any shoreline garden.

Blueflag is known by a number of different common names (Wild Iris, Harlequin Blue Flag, Northern Blue Flag), so the best way to find it is to go by the Latin name, *Iris versicolor*. It is a common garden plant, and can be purchased at most nurseries.

For more information on Grow Me Instead, or to see the full guide, visit www.ontarioinvasiveplants.ca