

Yellow Flag Iris

Iris pseudacorus

Plants · In flower May-Jul



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A tall, robust waterside perennial with stiff, upright, sword-shaped grey-green leaves and large bright yellow flowers marked with darker veining on the drooping outer petals. Yellow flag grows in marshes, ditches, pond and loch margins and wet meadows around Dumfries, often forming extensive stands.

BEHAVIOUR

It spreads by thick creeping rhizomes as well as by large corky floating seeds, which is how it colonises along a watercourse. The flower is structured so that a visiting bumblebee is funnelled under the style and forced past the anthers. The species is widely used in reedbeds and constructed wetlands because the rhizomes take up metals and nutrients from polluted water.

WHEN TO SEE IT

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QUICK FACTS

FAMILY	Irises (Iridaceae)
HEIGHT	40–150 cm
STATUS	Native; common at water margins

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