

FLOWERING RUSH ALERT

Flowering Rush (*Butomus umbellatus*) – A **PROHIBITED** Species in Saskatchewan

- Flowers held on tall stalks and grown in cushion shaped clusters of whitish-pink flowers. Blooming occurs from August to freeze-up.
- Leaves are sword-like, triangular in cross section, spongy, reddish tinge at base. Leaf tips spirally twisted, under water leaves limp. Plant height up to 1m (usually less).

Flower



Bulblets



Confirmed Locations on South Sask River AB/SK Border



Plant



Leaves



Unconfirmed Location- Cutarm Creek Near Gerald

Photos: Leslie J. Mehrhoff University of Connecticut Bugwood.org (flowers and bulblets); Chet Neufeld Native Plant Society of Saskatchewan (plant and leaves; Observation locations iMapInvasives Saskatchewan

The recent confirmed reporting of Flowering Rush occurring in the South Saskatchewan River has sparked concern and highlighted the renewed need to raise awareness about the invasive nature of this species. Flowering Rush is an invasive plant species that has the potential to colonize areas within wetlands and along riparian areas. Once established it grows aggressively, displaces native vegetation, can form dense monocultures, reduces biodiversity and alters wildlife/fish habitat. It can clog irrigation canals and interfere with boating and other recreational activities. It can readily disperse from small bulblets or root fragments that break off and form new plants.

Please consider looking for, documenting and reporting this species when you encounter it.

Report To: Local Rural/Urban Municipalities, Weed Inspectors, Landowners

Email sightings to: invasives.imap@gov.sk.ca

When taking steps to control/eradicate an infestation exercise caution.

Hand-dig and dispose of with care. Dig around the plant about a foot away from the base. Try to remove and bag the plant in one big chunk. Examine (i.e. rake/scour) the hole for any cut off roots, root fragment and bulblets left behind. Avoid disturbing root system until root fragments and bulblets (which can float) can be captured.

Removing all plant pieces is necessary to limit spread. Plants should be dug up, double bagged immediately and disposed of/buried away from water or wet areas.

(Please note landowner permission and an Aquatic Shoreline Alteration Permit may be required for some of these activities.)

A Fact Sheet specific to Flowering Rush can be found at Saskatchewan Invasive Species Council

www.saskinvasives.ca