



Deep Roots
Greater Heights



Flowering Rush



Umbellate-shaped inflorescence



Full bloom

Maple Ridge Noxious Weeds Program

Flowering Rush

(*Butomus umbellatus*)

Designation: Provincially Noxious

History:

Flowering rush is native to Asia, Europe and Africa. It was brought to North America for use as a water garden plant.

How to Identify:

Size: Very large, up to 5 m tall.

Flowers: Deep pink to white in colour, are 2 to 2.5 cm across and are grouped in an umbellate-shaped inflorescence at the top of the stalk. Flowers between May and September.

Leaves: Grow on opposite sides of the stem and are about 1 m long.

Stem: Resemble bulrushes and range from 0.5 m to 1.5 m in height and are round.

Location: Found in wetlands, sedge meadows, streams, river banks, ditches and lake shores. Can also grow on wet soil, in shallow water or be underwater.

Mistaken Identity: When not in flower, most often mistaken as common bulrush.

Danger / Impact

Displaces native vegetation and reduces biological diversity. Clogs irrigation canals.

Dense mats can restrict light, dissolved gases and nutrients available to other submerged plants.

Often occurs with purple loosestrife, another noxious weed.

Management:

Flowering rush is an aggressive plant that is still sold as a water garden plant. The best method to control flowering rush is to not plant it at all.

For effective control where it has established, hand-cut plants below the water surface. Cutting will not kill the plant but will decrease the abundance. Repetitive cutting may be needed throughout the growing season. All cut plant parts must be removed from the water.

Disposal: Dispose of plants in double bagged garbage bags, use as compost or burn.

Restoration and Planting Alternatives:

Native Species:

- Hardhack (*Spiraea douglasii*)
- Common bulrush (*Typha latifolia*)

Non-native species:

- Blazing star (*Liatrix spicata*)
- Tall delphinium (*Delphinium elatum*)



Common bulrush – Native Species easily mistaken for Flowering Rush



Distribution in DMR:

May be mistaken identification and may not be in DMR; a weed for rapid response and eradication.

Who Do you Call?

- 1) **REPORT PROHIBITED WEED** – Report-A-Weed: www.reportaweedbc.ca 1-888-WEEDSBC
- 2) **DMR: 604-467-7363** – And see: <http://www.mapleridge.ca/714/Invasive-Plant-Species>

Information and photos: <http://invasivespeciesmanitoba.com/site/uploads/pdf/ISCM%20Fact%20Sheets/Flowering%20Rush2013.pdf>

<http://www.bcinvases.ca/general/weed-of-the-week-flowering-rush>

<http://linnet.geog.ubc.ca>

<http://iscmv.ca/target-species/species-profiles>