

# QUICK FACTS FLOWERING RUSH



**Common aquaculture plants can become invasive if they are not native to Alberta. Wind and water can spread seeds and plant fragments beyond your garden which creates new populations that can dominate ecosystems and ruin habitat for native species.**

## **DON'T LET IT LOOSE!**

Here's how you can help prevent the spread of flowering rush:

- 1.** Never release aquarium or domestic pond water, plants, dead or live animals into water bodies.
- 2.** If you see flowering rush, report it to the Aquatic Invasive Species Hotline or use EDDMapS Alberta from your smart phone.
- 3.** DO NOT pull or dig it as small fragments can break off and start new plants.
- 4.** Know the law! Flowering rush is listed as Prohibited Noxious under the Weed Control Act and is a prohibited species under the Fisheries (Alberta) Act. It is illegal to sell, import, transport or possess prohibited species. Penalties can be up to \$100,000 and/or a year in prison.



## FLOWERING RUSH QUICK FACTS:

- Flowering rush is a perennial aquatic plant native to Africa, Asia, and Europe and was likely introduced to North America as an ornamental plant.
- Flowering rush stems are erect and triangular, leaves are sword-shaped and twisted toward the tip, and there are 20-50 pink to white flowers in umbrella shaped clusters.
- It is able to reproduce both by seed and through rhizome (root) fragments, bulbils formed on the rhizomes, and bulbils formed on the inflorescence (flowers).
- Flowering rush infestations can displace native vegetation and alter water quality, reducing habitat for fish, wildlife, and native plants.
- Dense stands in irrigation ditches, canals, or stormwater management ponds can disrupt the flow of water, the availability of water, and increase sedimentation.
- Flowering rush can also impacts recreational use in lakes and flowing waters by interfering with boat propellers and limiting access to waterbodies for swimming, boating, and recreating.
- Control of flowering rush can be difficult, especially once well established. Methods for control or eradication by trained personnel include: careful hand digging and benthic barriers for isolated or small populations, mechanical cutting, and chemical treatment.
- Care must be taken with hand digging and cutting to ensure all plant fragments are removed and disposed of. Fragments can drift with water movement and result in new infestations.
- Flowering rush has already been found in lakes, rivers, creeks, irrigation canals and stormwater ponds in Alberta.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REPORT INVASIVE SPECIES, CALL:

**1-855-336-BOAT (2628)**

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