

Vermont Invasive Exotic Plant Fact Sheet

Flowering Rush *Butomus umbellatus* L. Flowering Rush Family Vermont Class B Noxious Weed

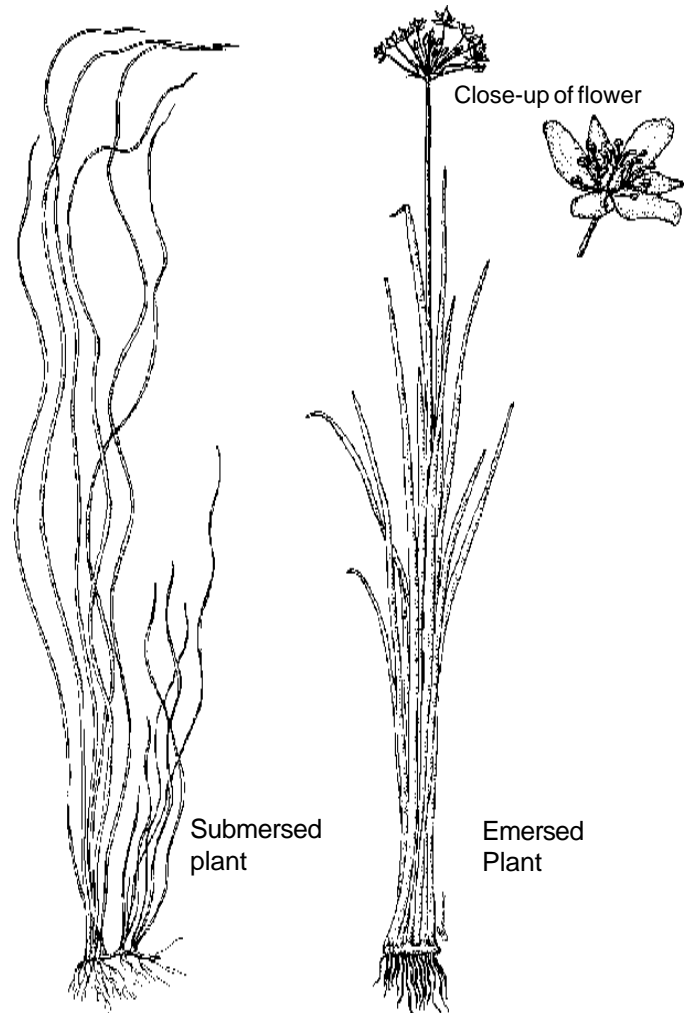
Description: Flowering rush is a perennial rush with a stout rhizome (a thickened underground stem) and grass-like leaves. The stems range from 2 to 4 feet (.5-1 meter) in height. Stems are topped with a cluster of pink flowers. Submersed non-flowering plants with limp, ribbon-like leaves are seen occasionally in the water.

Habitat: Flowering rush grows along lake shores and river banks. The submersed form can be found in shallow to moderately deep water.

Threats: Dense stands of flowering rush crowd out more beneficial plants such as wild rice and cattails, reducing plant diversity and degrading wildlife habitat.

Distribution: Flowering rush is a native of Europe and Asia. It was first found in the United States in 1928. Since its discovery, it has spread widely and is now well established in many areas of the Lake Champlain Valley and in the marshes along the St. Lawrence River. It has also spread westward throughout the Great Lakes region and beyond to the states of North Dakota and Idaho.

Control: Mechanical harvesting has been used on submerged flowering rush in Minnesota. Hand-cutting emergent flowering rush below the water level can provide season-long control. Multiple cuttings of emergent rush plants appear to reduce the height of the plants in the following year, but stem density may not be reduced. The use of herbicides to control flowering rush has had limited success.



(Crow and Hellquist 1982. *Aquatic Plants of New England Series: Butomus umbellatus*. Illustration by Pam Bruns.)

* No person may use pesticides, biological controls, bottom barriers, structural controls or powered mechanical devices in waters of the state to control nuisance aquatic vegetation, insects or other aquatic life including lamprey unless that person has been issued a permit by the secretary of the Agency of Natural Resources.

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Flowering Rush
Flowering Rush Family (*Butomaceae*)

References:

- Countryman, W.D. 1978. *Nuisance Aquatic Plants in Lake Champlain*. Lake Champlain Basin Study.
- Hotchkiss, Neil. 1972. *Common Marsh, Underwater and Floating-leaved Plants of the United States and Canada* Dover Publications, Inc. New York.
- Larson, Gary E. 1993. *Aquatic and Wetland Vascular Plants of the Northern Great Plains*. USDA Forest Service. Ft. Collins, CO. Gen. Tech. Rep. RM-238.



For more information about Vermont's invasive exotic plant species or if you would like to know how you can help, please contact:

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Vermont Department of Forests, Parks and Recreation, 103 S. Main St., Bldg. 10 South, Waterbury, VT 05671-0601 Tel. 802-241-3678