



IDENTIFICATION OF MINNESOTA AQUATIC INVASIVE:

Flowering Rush (*Butomus umbellatus*)

SEARCH LOCATIONS

- River, lake and stream edges
- Emerging from water up to 4 feet deep

SEARCH TIME

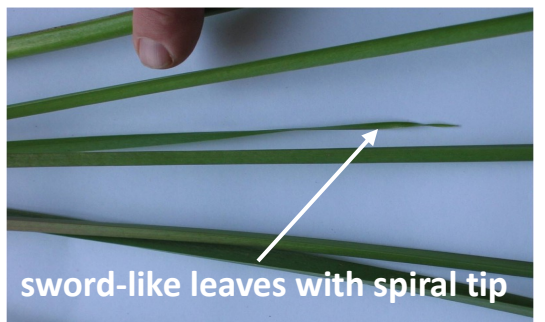
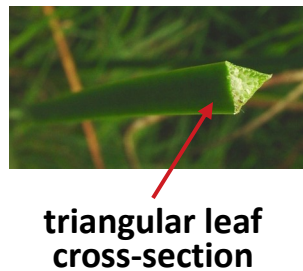
July through August (flowering)

SEARCH IMAGE

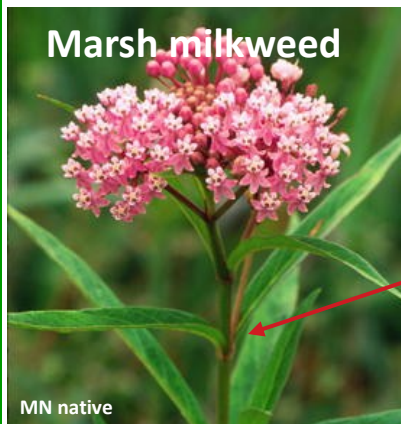
- **Pink-white flower head, 6-10 inches** in diameter
- 3-6 feet tall
- **emerging from water**

IDENTIFICATION CHECKLIST

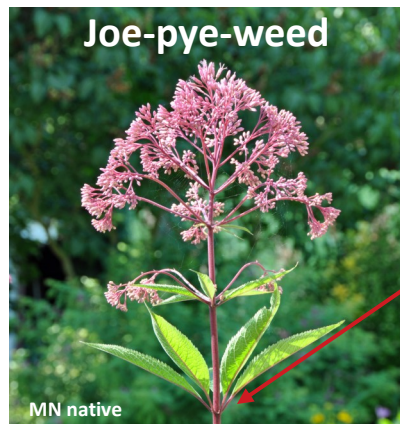
- ✓ Emergent **sword-like leaves** are **triangular** in cross-section, becoming **flat near the tip and spirally twisted**
- ✓ Leaves **attach singly** and **adjacent** to each other at the base of the plant



LOOK-ALIKES with large, pink-white flower heads found along lake, river and stream edges



Marsh milkweed has flat leaves that attach **opposite** each other along the length of the stem



Joe-pye-weed has **whorls of 3-7 flat leaves** that attach along the length of the stem

INFORMATION ON MINNESOTA AQUATIC INVASIVE:

Flowering Rush (*Butomus umbellatus*)

MINNESOTA STATUS: *Prohibited invasive species*

It is unlawful (a misdemeanor) to possess, import, purchase, transport, or introduce flowering rush except under a permit for disposal, control, research, or education.

IF YOU FIND A NEW OCCURANCE OF FLOWERING RUSH

- 1) Record its location (GPS coordinates, labeled dot on map or landmark)
- 2) Record the date
- 3) Document the plant (electronic images or make pressed samples that include items on the “checklist”)
- 4) Provide this information to the local MN DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist, Rich Rezanka (richard.rezanka@state.mn.us)

METHOD(S) OF REPRODUCTION

- “Bulbets” form at the base of the leaves (see image below) and root to form a new plant
- Underground stems (rhizomes) spread slowly outward from original plant
- Seeds are often not viable in Midwest

VECTORS OF SPREAD

- Water currents, ice action and muskrats can spread bulbets (and seeds)

STRATEGIES FOR RESTORING NATIVE PLANT COMMUNITY

(Contact your local MN DNR for permit and specific details)

- 1) Ongoing flowering rush control, including chemical and mechanical treatments (no biocontrols available)
- 2) Allow native aquatic plant community to recover

RESOURCES

Printed

Czarapata, E.J. 2005, *Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest – an illustrated guide to their identification and control*. Madison: University of Wisconsin Press, 215 pp.

Web

Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health: <http://www.invasive.org>

MN Dept. of Natural Resources: http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/index_aquatic.html and http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/aboutdnr/reports/legislative/2012_invasive_species_annual_report_final.pdf

