

Flowering Rush

BOTANICAL NAME: *Butomus Umbellatus*

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?

Flowering Rush has long leaf blades up to 40 inches that have a triangular cross section that flattens out to a sword shape towards the tip. The flowering stalk is round, leafless, and grows up to 5 feet tall with an umbrella shaped cluster of flowers at the top. 20-50 flowers radiate out on short stems from the top of the stalk. Each flower has 3 larger petals and 3 shorter sepals that are whitish pink.



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from the top of the stalk. Each flower has 3 larger petals and 3 shorter sepals that are whitish pink.

WHERE DOES IT GROW? It grows in riparian areas, along shorelines and in water up to 9 feet deep.

HOW DOES IT SPREAD? Some produce seed, but all Flower Rush produces pea-sized bulbils on the rhizomes and the base of the flowering stalk that detach and get dispersed by the water. This makes it extremely difficult to eradicate once established.

HOW DO I CONTROL IT? By far the best option is prevention, because options are limited once it's established. Mechanical controls such as cutting or hand pulling are rarely successful because it's difficult to remove the underground rhizomes. Chemical control is an option, but may require an NPDES permit for use near water. The University of Idaho Extension Bulletin 865 recommends the active ingredient **Imazapyr**.



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