

# Have you seen this invasive plant?

Flowering rush is a freshwater plant that can rapidly colonize wetlands, shorelines, slow-moving rivers, and canals.

*Learn more at [www.nwcb.wa.gov](http://www.nwcb.wa.gov)*



The flower stalk can grow up to 3 feet above the water and bears a single cluster of white to pink flowers, each with 3 petals and 3 sepals. Not all plants flower, though, so it's important to recognize the leaves, too.



Emergent leaves are fleshy, 3-sided at the base and then flatten out towards the tip. They have a distinctive, slow spiral or twist.



Flowering rush can be found as scattered plants growing among other wetland vegetation or in dense stands such as this one. Leaves can grow above the water's surface or can be completely submerged.

## Why is flowering rush (*Butomus umbellatus*) a noxious weed?

- Flowering rush forms dense stands in previously unvegetated areas, which can reduce swimming, fishing, and boating. It can rapidly disperse and colonize new areas through rhizome fragments and rhizome buds.

## Where do you find flowering rush?

- Flowering rush grows along freshwater shorelines and riverbanks, and in standing water. It can also be found in irrigation canals and ditches.
- Its distribution in Washington is still limited, though it is already a serious problem in parts of Montana.

## What can you do?

- Learn to correctly identify this invasive plant.
- Please note that it is a Class A noxious weed and a prohibited plant that cannot be bought or sold in WA.
- Our goal is to treat current populations and prevent new ones. Please help us by reporting any sightings to your county noxious weed control board or to [noxiousweeds@agr.wa.gov](mailto:noxiousweeds@agr.wa.gov).

