

Aquatic/  
Semi-  
Aquatic  
Invasive  
Plant

# Flowering Rush

*Butomus umbellatus*



## What is it and Why is it a Problem?

Flowering Rush is a perennial emergent aquatic plant that invades marshes and the edges of lakes and slow-moving waterways. It is capable of living in up to 3 m deep of water and prefers muddy soils where it can easily spread its rhizomes to displace native vegetation. It interferes with fish and other wildlife habitat, reduces biodiversity, and also disturbs recreational activities such as swimming, boating and fishing.



## What Does it Look Like?

- Plant can grow 0.3 - 1.5 m tall and has a delicate almond scent
- Leaves are linear, sword-shaped and up to 1 m long
- Flowers are pink-white with 3 large petals (plus 3 sepals) and occur in groups of 20 - 50 in umbrella-like umbels that are 1.9 - 2.5 cm wide



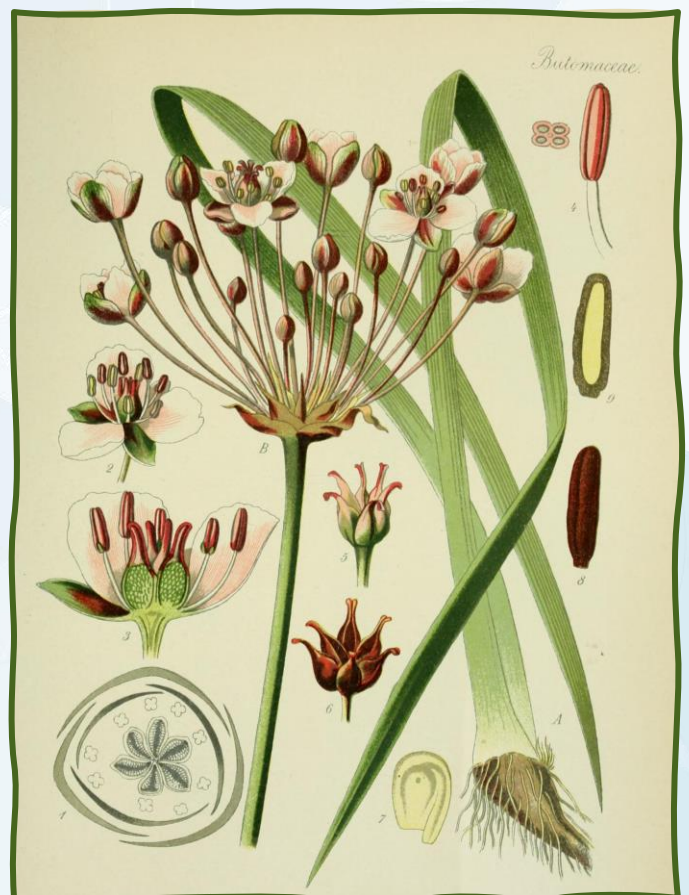
## How Can it be Managed?

- Report sightings of any invasive species online through [EDDMapS Ontario](#), a web-based mapping system which also has an app, or through the [Invasive Species in Ontario](#) project on [iNaturalist.org](#).
- Learn how to identify it so you can avoid accidentally spreading it with your fishing gear and equipment. Inspect your boat, trailer and fishing gear before leaving a fishing spot and before heading to a new fishing spot to remove any mud and plant fragments. Refer to the [OMNRF's Boater's Action Plan](#) for more information on cleaning your boat and gear.
- Avoid boating near known Flowering Rush infestations and reduce your speed. Propellers can cut off pieces of the plant and spread them to new areas.





- If you are considering removing any invasive aquatic plants, ensure you follow [OMNRF's rules](#) regarding removal - the beds of most water bodies in Ontario are Crown Land and most work needs a permit.
- Do not buy, sell or plant Flowering Rush for water garden or pond use. You can refer to the [Grow me instead: Guide to Planting Native Plants in Southern Ontario](#) to determine what native aquatic plants to use instead of Flowering Rush. Oftentimes invasive aquatic plants end up reaching water bodies when people dispose of their unwanted aquarium or water garden plants. The correct way to dispose of unwanted aquatic plants is to donate them or throw them in the garbage. They can also be composted or mulched 30 m or more away from a watercourse on land.



## References

[Great Lakes Nonindigenous Species Information System](#), produced by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

[Grow Me Instead \(Southern Ontario\) Brochure](#), produced by the Ontario Invasive Plant Council

[Ontario Invading Species Awareness Program](#), developed by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF), and the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH).