

New Invaders Watch Program

Early Detection and Rapid Response Network

COMMON NAME: FLOWERING RUSH

SCIENTIFIC NAME: *Butomus umbellatus*

FAMILY: *Butomaceae*

ORIGIN: Eurasia

US INTRODUCTION: Late 1800's, introduced as an ornamental garden plant

MAJOR PATHWAYS OF SPREAD:

- Distribution and use for ornamental gardens
- Transport on watercraft
- Animals (muskrats)
- Water and ice

IDENTIFICATION CHARACTERISTICS:

- Perennial, emergent aquatic herb; in shallow water, grows 1-4 feet tall, spreads vegetatively, rarely by seed
- Emergent leaves grow from base of stem, 2 - 4 feet tall, stiff and narrow, stem and leaves triangular in cross-section. Submersed leaves are limp
- Stems triangular in cross section
- Flowers 3 petals, 3 sepals, white or pink in a distinctive flat-topped spray. Blooms mid-summer thru early fall. Plants only produce flowers in very shallow water or on dry sites
- Threatens marshes, backwaters and shorelines; prefers shallow or slow moving water



Group of plants



Flower cluster



Flower close-up



Population in Will County, IL



Individual plant

NATIVE LOOK-ALIKES:

Burreeds, *Sparganium* spp.; leaves keeled (V-shaped) and female flower parts resemble small, spiked balls.

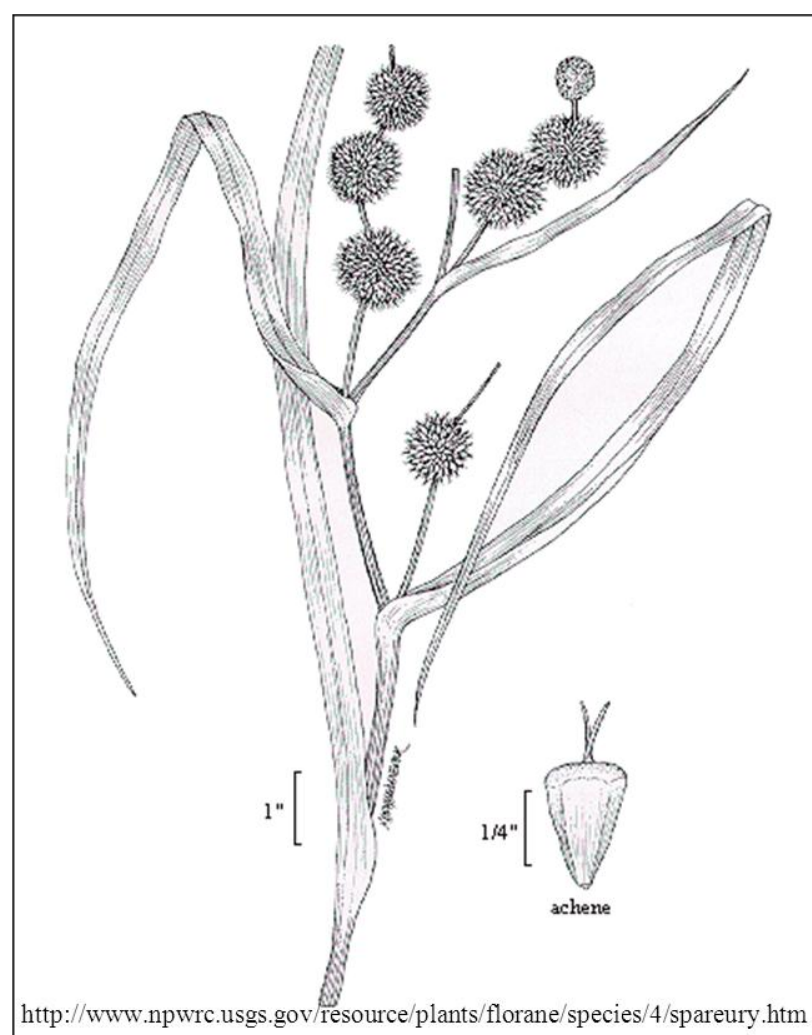
Non-native vs. Native



Flowering rush triangular stem



V-shaped stem of native burreed



<http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/plants/florane/species/4/spareury.htm>

Bur reeds, *Sparganium* spp.; leaves keeled (V-shaped), female flower parts resemble small, spiked balls.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES:

Minnesota Sea Grant.
<http://www.seagrant.umn.edu/ais/floweringrush>

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.
<http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/herbaceous/floweringrush.html>

King County, Washington.
<http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/animalsAndPlants/noxious-weeds/weed-identification/flowering-rush.aspx>