

Flowering rush
(*Butomus umbellatus*)

Currently in Montana, noxious weed infest about 8.2 million acres. Many of these plants were brought to America as ornamentals for gardens, medicinal purposes, by accident in discarded soil from a ship's ballast, or unintentionally in bags of seed brought from other parts of the world. Whatever the cause of introduction, these non-native plant species have found their way onto Montana's state listed noxious weed list.

Flowering rush (*Butomus umbellatus*) Flowering rush is native to Eurasia and was introduced into the United States as an ornamental because of its showy umbrella-like flower clusters. Flowering rush escaped cultivation and is now considered an invasive plant. Habitats where this plant flourishes include areas where the soil is wet and gets full sun. It can be found in riparian areas and wetlands, which include ditches, marshes, lakes and streams. This plant is an aquatic perennial that can grow up to 5' tall. The stem of this plant is 3-sided and if a cross section is looked at, the stem looks like a triangle. The leaves of this plant are triangular, sword-like, and can be up to 3' long. Often times the ends of the leaves become twisted and spiral. Flowering rush produces flowers from June to August. Flowers are formed on the ends of the stalks in a round-topped umbel. There can be as many as 50 flowers produced per stalk. The flowers consist of 3 pink petals and 3 pink sepals that resemble petals. Upon pollination this plant produces seeds. However, it is very rare for this plant to be spread by seeds because seed production is minimal. When seeds are produced they are dark brown in color and are contained in fruits. This plant primarily reproduces through creeping rhizomes and "bulblets" that are produced on the rhizomes. This plant can be confused with common bulrush and it is difficult to identify the differences between the two plants unless one of them is in the flowering stage.

Please take a few moments to learn about noxious weeds. If noxious weeds are not currently a problem in your area, they may be in the near future. For more information about Montana's state listed noxious weeds, regulated plants, or weed species listed on your county weed list, please contact your local county weed district (can list weed district name here... ex: Lewis & Clark County Weed District) at _(406)_(Phone number)_. Or you can contact the Montana Department of Agriculture at (406) 444-5600.