

# Flowering Rush



root



seeds



flower

# Flowering Rush

**Genus:** *Butomus*

**Species:** *umbellatus*

**Priority Listing:** 1B

**Perennial**

**Riparian/Aquatic**

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 stems on cylinder shaped 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 very minimal. When seeds are produced they are dark brown in color and are contained in fruits that are ½" long.

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.

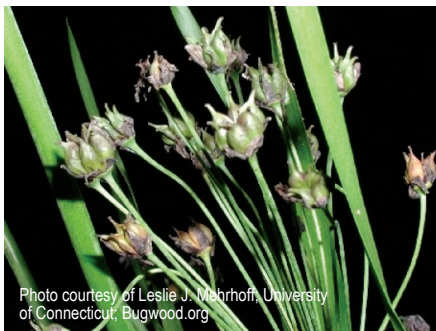


Photo courtesy of Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

**Aquatic:** living or growing on, in, or near the water

**Bulblets:** a small bulb or bulb-like structure

**Invasive:** marked by the tendency to spread or intrude

**Ornamental:** a plant that serves a purpose for ornament, or is grown for show

**Perennial:** a plant whose life spans several years

**Rhizomes:** a perennial underground stem that usually grows horizontally

**Riparian:** relating to wetlands or lands along streams, rivers, or bodies of water

**Umbel:** flat-topped or rounded flower cluster where the individual flower stalks arise from about the same point