Irish Vegetation Classification (IVC)

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Community Synopsis

Scientific name	*Iris pseudacorus* beds
Common name	Yellow Iris beds
Community code	FW3N

Vegetation

This community comprises species-poor, dense beds of *Iris pseudacorus* with its tall, broad leaves and large yellow flowers. Beneath there is likely to be some growth of *Agrostis stolonifera*, but no other species are constants. Occasional plants, characteristic of wet grasslands, are *Holcus lanatus*, *Potentilla anserina*, *Filipendula ulmaria*, *Poa trivialis* and *Ranunculus repens*.

Ecology

Iris beds occur in a range of wet, fertile habitats including ditches, lake margins, dune slacks and poorly draining grassland, including soakways through coastal grassland.

Sub-communities

No sub-communities are currently described.

Similar communities

Whilst *Iris* is a feature of several swamp communities and can also occur scattered across wet grassland, *Iris* usually does not dominate as strongly elsewhere as it does within the FW3N community.

Records and distribution

Number of records (all)

Clearly assigned:	64
Transitional:	12
Total:	76

Number of records (mapped)

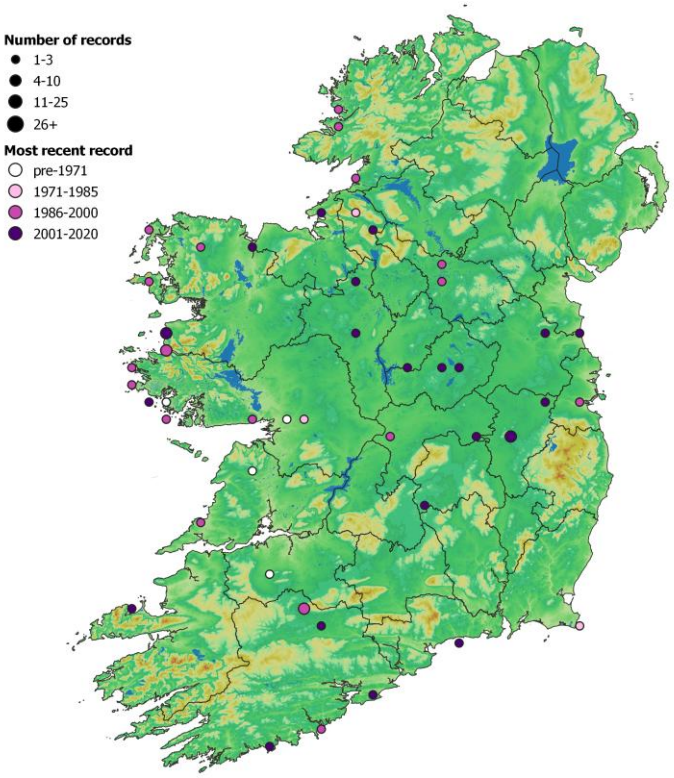
2001-2020:	32
1986-2000:	30
1971-1985:	9
Pre-1971:	5
Total:	76

Number of hectads (by most recent time period)

2001-2020:	21
1986-2000:	18
1971-1985	3
Pre-1971:	4
Total:	46

Number of hectads (records in each time period)

2001-2020:	21
1986-2000:	19
1971-1985	5
Pre-1971:	4



Synoptic table (*n* = 53)

Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max	Species	Frequency (from I-V)	Cover min (med) max
Iris pseudacorus	V	5-(8)-9	*Rumex acetosa*	I	1-(2)-7
Agrostis stolonifera	IV	1-(4)-7	*Urtica dioica*	I	+-(3)-3
Holcus lanatus	II	2-(3)-6	*Cardamine pratensis*	I	1-(2)-3
Potentilla anserina	II	+-(3)-7	*Equisetum palustre*	I	1-(4)-5
Filipendula ulmaria	II	2-(4)-8	*Ranunculus acris*	I	2-(3)-5
Poa trivialis	II	2-(4)-8	*Trifolium pratense*	I	2-(2)-4
Ranunculus repens	II	+-(3)-8	*Alopecurus pratensis*	I	1-(4)-5
Calliergonella cuspidata	I	1-(4)-6	*Anthoxanthum odoratum*	I	2-(4)-7
Equisetum fluviatile	I	1-(3)-5	*Carex hirta*	I	2-(2)-4
Mentha aquatica	I	1-(3)-5	*Cirsium arvense*	I	+-(4)-4
Brachythecium rutabulum	I	2-(2)-5	*Equisetum arvense*	I	2-(3)-4
Festuca rubra	I	2-(5)-6	*Hydrocotyle vulgaris*	I	2-(3)-3
Lathyrus pratensis	I	+-(2)-4	*Phalaris arundinacea*	I	3-(3)-4
Trifolium repens	I	1-(3)-5	*Veronica beccabunga*	I	2-(3)-5
Apium nodiflorum	I	2-(3)-7	*Veronica chamaedrys*	I	2-(3)-3
Carex acutiformis	I	+-(4)-8	*Persicaria maculosa*	I	1-(2)-4
Eleocharis palustris	I	2-(3)-3	*Rumex conglomeratus*	I	2-(3)-3
Juncus effusus	I	2-(3)-7	*Senecio aquaticus*	I	+-(2)-2
Rorippa nast.-aquaticum agg.	I	2-(4)-5	*Sparganium erectum*	I	2-(3)-5
Galium palustre	I	2-(3)-5	*Typha latifolia*	I	3-(3)-5

Affinities

GHI: FS2 Tall-herb swamps

ZM: CM08D Filipendulion ulmariae Segal ex Westhoff et Den Held 1969 / OD01A Phragmition communis Koch 1926)

EUNIS: C3.24B Iris beds

NVC: MG13 *Agrostis stolonifera-Alopecurus geniculatus* grassland (50.5%), but also MG10c *Holcus lanatus-Juncus effusus* rush-pasture *Iris pseudacorus* sub-community (47.0%) and see account of species-poor *Iris pseudacorus* swamp in Rodwell et al. (p. 30, 2000)

Annex I: No significant correspondence

Proxy environmental data

Light: 7.0 Reaction: 6.1 Wetness: 8.1 Fertility: 5.8 Salinity: 0.7

Conservation value

This community does not correspond to EU HD Annex I habitat 6430 Hydrophilous tall-herb swamp due to the lack of tall-herb diversity, but it can support the Annex II species Desmoulin's whorl snail (*Vertigo moulinsiana*). Species diversity is high compared to other swamp types (species/4 m^2 = 11.0, *n* = 33).

Management

The main threat to these beds is likely to be agricultural improvement as *Iris* is viewed as an undesirable plant of pastures and meadows by some landowners, who may seek to control it using a combination of rolling and spraying.

Key references

Long, M.P., Brophy, J.T. (2019) Monitoring of sites and habitat for three Annex II species of whorl snail (*Vertigo*). *Irish Wildlife Manuals* No. 104. National Parks and Wildlife Service, Dublin.

Rodwell, J.S., Dring, J.C., Averis, A.B.G., Proctor, M.C.F., Malloch, A.J.C., Schaminée, J.H.J., Dargie, T.C.D. (2000) Review of coverage of the National Vegetation Classification, JNCC Report 302. JNCC, Peterborough.

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Photo 1. FW3N *Iris pseudacorus* beds, Dooaghtry, Mayo (J. Brophy, June 2014)

Photo 2. FW3N *Iris pseudacorus* beds, Coolteige, Roscommon (K. Duffy/J. Martin, July 2007)