



PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE (*Lythrum salicaria*)

Family: Lythraceae

Life Cycle: Perennial

Class: B - Control Required

AKA: Spiked loosestrife

| COMMON NAME | DESCRIPTION |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vigorously outcompetes wetland vegetation • May be confused with native fireweed and spirea which have similar flower colors and aquatic habitat • Can disrupt water flow, clog irrigation infrastructure and reduce habitat value • Native to Eurasia and North Africa | <p>Growth Traits: Aquatic perennial growing to ten feet tall and five feet wide in ideal conditions. Persistent taproot and spreading rootstock and high seed production makes it highly competitive. Dies back to root crown in winter, re-sprouting each spring.</p> <p>Leaves and Stems: Leaves narrow, lance-shaped and one and a half to four inches long. May be covered in fine hairs. Leaves may be opposite or whorled. Stems may be branched or unbranched and somewhat square. Plants may have 30 - 50 stems.</p> <p>Flowers: Blooms July - September. Five to seven petalled magenta to purple flowers appear on dense spike at the end of stems. Spikes may be several inches to over a foot long.</p> <p>Roots and Reproduction: Taprooted with spreading rootstock . Established plants can have root crowns several feet wide, resulting in broad bushy plants with dozens of stems. Spreads primarily by seed but can also spread vegetatively by stem fragments. Mature plants can produce 2.7 million seeds. Seeds can germinate underwater, and remain viable in soil for three years.</p> <p>Habitat: Grows in freshwater to brackish wetlands, in riparian areas, marshes, ponds, ditches, or anywhere with moist ground or standing water. Needs moisture to become established, but thereafter can withstand years of dry conditions.</p> <p>Toxicity: Not known to be toxic. Has been used in traditional medicine.</p> |
| CONTROL METHODS | |
| <p>Mechanical: Cutting alone is not effective; it can encourage vegetative spreading. Digging small infestations can be effective; monitor area for regrowth. Dry out removed plant parts and dispose of to avoid re-sprouting.</p> <p>Cultural: Continuous flooding may be effective where water levels can be controlled. Covering rootstock with black plastic will reduce seed production, but will not kill the plant.</p> <p>Biological: Loosestrife beetles and weevils have been released, with beetles showing most</p> <p>Chemical*: Most effective on rapidly growing plants. <i>Due to its aquatic habitat, permits may be required to perform applications on purple loosestrife. Contact the Washington Department of Ecology for information about aquatic weed management. See below for recommendations.</i></p> | |

***ALWAYS read herbicide labels and follow instructions for use and PPE.** The use of a surfactant (aka sticker) increases the efficacy of herbicide application, saving you time and money. If treating over multiple seasons, rotate using herbicides with different modes of action to reduce likelihood of herbicide resistance developing. Below are recommended herbicides based on stage of growth and time of year. All recommendations are supplied with the understanding that no discrimination is intended and no endorsement by the Noxious Weed Board is implied. Trade names are used to simplify recommendations. **NOTE:** There is no 'magic bullet' in noxious weed control, and control efforts must be repeated every season to stop their spread. Using a combination of methods (e.g. cultural and chemical) will lead to better control over time.

| April - May Rosette, Seedling Stage | June - July Bolting, Bud, Bloom Stage | August - October Seeding, Fall Regrowth Stage |
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| Escort | Escort | Garlon |
| Garlon | Garlon | Rodeo |
| Rodeo | Rodeo | |