



Purple Loosestrife

A weed you should get to know.

Purple Loosestrife *Lythrum salicaria* L.

Why should I get to know this weed?

Purple loosestrife, also known as purple lythrum, is highly invasive in wetlands, impeding water flow and replacing plants that provide nutrition and habitat for wildlife. Still sold as an ornamental in some places, purple loosestrife is present in every state except Florida.

How can I identify it?

Purple loosestrife is a perennial plant that typically grows 6 to 10 feet tall, and is found in moist areas including stream banks, meadows, ditches and canals. Be sure to make a positive identification of purple loosestrife, as it may be confused with native loosestrife species.



— numerous, small, rose-purple flowers with 5 to 7 petals, 0.25 to 0.4 inches long, are arranged along each long, flower spike



— multiple, stiff, four-sided stems

— lance-shaped leaves, 1 to 4 inches long, are arranged opposite or whorled, and leaf margins are smooth

Where should I report my sightings?

- County offices
- Conservation organizations
- State Depts of Agriculture or Natural Resources
- U.S. Forest Service
- Bureau of Land Management
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Park Service

When weeds are detected early, they can be more easily removed or contained. Preventing weeds from spreading into new areas is beneficial to all of us!



CENTER FOR
INVASIVE PLANT
MANAGEMENT

Bozeman, Montana www.weedcenter.org

Above photos courtesy of J.M. DiTomaso, University of California-Davis
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