

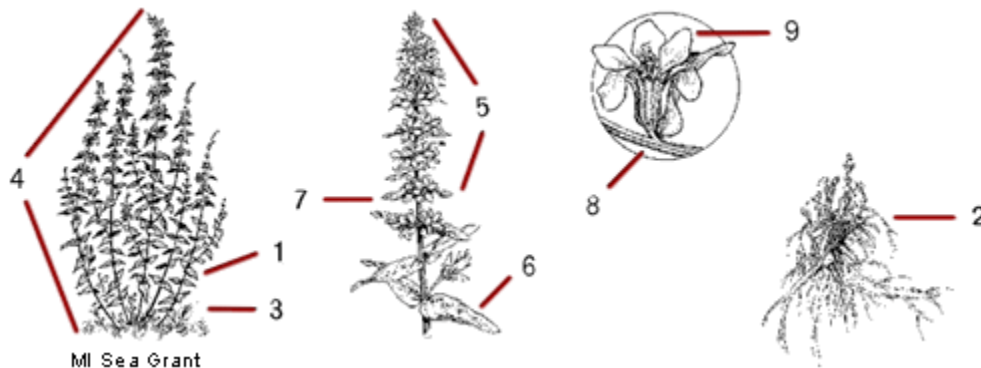
Purple Loosestrife - (*Lythrum salicaria*)



Photo Credits: Kim Bogenschutz, Iowa Department of Natural Resources

Purple loosestrife is an invasive perennial plant that is spreading rapidly in North American wetlands, shorelines, and roadside ditches. Thick stands of purple loosestrife crowd out native plants and reduce food, shelter, and nesting sites for wildlife, birds, turtles, and frogs. After multiple introductions in the 1800s for bee keeping, as an ornamental plant, and in discarded soil used as ballast on ships, this European species has invaded nearly every U.S. state and at least six Canadian provinces. Gardeners, waterfowl hunters, and other outdoor enthusiasts should know how to identify purple loosestrife – detecting new infestations can prevent the spread of this plant. Report new sightings and help control purple loosestrife.

Identification of Purple Loosestrife:



General Characteristics:

1. Mature plants have many stems that grow from a...
2. Root crown
3. Dead stems stand until spring
4. Height 3 to 7 feet (1 to 2 meters)
5. Spike covered with many flowers
6. Downy, smooth-edged leaves
7. Leaves usually paired, opposite
8. Stem has ridges
9. Flower has several pink-purple petals

What You Can Do:

- Learn to identify purple loosestrife
- Do not transplant it!
- Avoid planting seed mixtures containing purple loosestrife
- Remove aquatic plants, seeds, and mud from equipment, clothing and footwear

Know the rules!

Specimens are needed to confirm sightings, but some jurisdictions prohibit or discourage possession and transport of Purple Loosestrife and other invasive aquatic plants and animals. Contact the nearest Ministry of Environment office or call the TIP line at 1-800-667-7561 or Ron Hlasny, Aquatic Biologist with Fish and Wildlife Branch at 1-306-953-3242. Unauthorized introduction of plants or fish into the wild is illegal. Protect your property and our waters.