



Purple loosestrife

Lythrum salicaria



Purple loosestrife

General	Family: Lythraceae Introduced from Europe An escaped ornamental Colorado List A - Eradication Required
Habitat	Perennial forb Infestations are found in wetlands, creeks, drainages Displaces native species. Reduces waterfowl habitat Prefers a moist, organic soil but tolerates wide range of soils Prefers full sun but can tolerate up to 50% shade

PLANT

Vegetation	Mature plants are 6-8 feet tall Narrow leaves attached closely to the stem Leaves have veins that parallel the leaf edge
Roots	Tap root with woody lateral branches
Flower	Rose-purple on spike shaped inflorescence June to September 2-3 million seeds per year per plant
Seed	Germinate in Spring Small, easily spread by moving water
Reproduction	Seed Cut stems Root fragments

CONTROL -- CHEMICAL		
<i>Timing</i>	<i>Herbicide</i>	<i>Notes</i>
Spring Seedling to Flowering	2,4D (aquatic versions – various) Glyphosate (aquatic versions – various)	Use of a surfactant is recommended for most herbicides to help increase contact with the vegetation and to facilitate herbicide uptake. Refer to the specific label for the appropriate type of surfactant. Refer to the individual label for allowed sites, specific timing, and restrictions. Formulations with more than one active ingredient are available. Control will take a few years so treatment will need to be repeated.
Summer to Fall	Cut flowers, bag, dispose of in the trash and treat foliage 2,4D (aquatic versions – various) Glyphosate (aquatic versions – various) Triclopyr (Garlon 3A)	
CONTROL -- NON-CHEMICAL		
<i>Technique</i>	<i>Timing</i>	<i>Method</i>
Biological	N/A	Not allowed for noxious weeds requiring eradication
Burning	N/A	
Cultivation	N/A	Cultivation severs the roots which will regrow plants from the fragments.
Grazing	N/A	
Mowing	N/A	
Prevention	Anytime	Maintain the health of the site by encouraging healthy stands of desirable plants. Revegetation of highly disturbed sites.
Removal	Spring to Fall	Clip plants, put into bags, dispose of in the trash or landfill. Do not compost or put into green waste. All parts of the plant may resprout. DO NOT PULL – fragmented roots will generate new plants

Use all chemicals according to the manufacturer's label. The label will provide specific instructions including allowed sites, application methods, rates, storage, re-entry requirements and personal protective equipment. No specific recommendation or endorsement is made or implied by listing the above methods or products. 9/2021