THE ARRIVAL
Purple loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria), a beautiful but aggressive invasive, arrived in eastern North America in the early 1900s. Plants were brought in from Europe for flower gardens, and seeds were scattered at the site. Since then, the infestation has expanded, now outpacing the natural population. This plant has been found across much of Canada and the United States.

THE PROBLEM
Purple loosestrife is a very generative plant which can rapidly reproduce, clonally forming their roots and flowers in one season. This aggressive invader, arrived in eastern North America in the late 19th century. Species are found across much of Canada and the United States.

Purple loosestrife, is an economic impact of millions of dollars.

Wetlands are the most biologically diverse, productive, and economically valuable ecosystems on earth. Purple loosestrife is a very hardy perennial which can rapidly degrade wetlands, diminishing their value for wildlife habitat.

A male purple loosestrife spike can contain many tiny seeds. Depending on where you live, purple loosestrife can occur the following season, but seeds may lay in the soil dormant for several years before germinating. Germination usually occurs in late spring to early July.

THE CHALLENGE
Individual plants: Small purple flowers. Purple loosestrife is an aggressive invader, arrived in eastern North America in the late 19th century. Species are found across much of Canada and the United States.

Mature plant: As it matures, a purple loosestrife can grow two to three meters. Purple loosestrife can spread rapidly in disturbed soil or from seeds present in the soil.

Cutting

Drought & Flood Feeding

Purple loosestrife can spread easily in swampy, moist environments such as wetlands, marshes, and riparian areas. If an infestation is in a dry, upland area, and severe purple loosestrife infestations are essentially all broad-leaved plant communities, leaving the area open to further invasion from nearby sources of purple loosestrife.

Purple loosestrife can spread rapidly by wind, water, or from seeds present in the soil. Purple loosestrife can spread even if the stakes are pulled from the soil. Seed will prevent more plants in future years -- remember each mature plant can produce over 2 million seeds per year. Also, carefully remove last year’s purple loosestrife plants.

Purple loosestrife can spread throughout the United States and Canada, and its spread is accelerated by improper control techniques. Because it is an invasive species, purple loosestrife near or in water, however, they may appear in groups.

In areas heavily infested to pull, cut or dig plants. Dense forest cover on a slope with deep soil, or on slopes that have larger roots that can be eased out with a garden fork. Remove as much of the root system (up to two years) or when in sand. Older plants have larger roots that can be eased out with a garden fork. Remove as much of the root system (up to two years) or when in sand. Older plants may need to be dug or hand pulled (up to two years) or when in sand. Older plants may need to be dug or hand pulled (up to two years) or when in sand. Older plants may need to be dug or hand pulled (up to two years) or when in sand. Older plants may need to be dug or hand pulled (up to two years) or when in sand. Older plants may need to be dug or hand pulled (up to two years) or when in sand. Older plants may need to be dug or hand pulled (up to two years) or when in sand. Older plants may need to be dug or hand pulled (up to two years) or when in sand. Older plants may need to be dug or hand pulled (up to two years) or when in sand. Older plants may need to be dug or hand pulled (up to two years) or when in sand. Older plants may need to be dug or hand pulled (up to two years) or when in sand. Older plants may need to be dug or hand pulled (up to two years) or when in sand. Older plants may need to be dug or hand pulled (up to two years) or when in sand. Older plants may need to be dug or hand pulled (up to two years) or when in sand. Older plants may need to be dug or hand pulled (up to two years) or when in sand. Older plants may need to be dug or hand pulled (up to two years) or when in sand. Older plants may need to be dug or hand pulled (up to two years) or when in sand. Older plants may need to be dug or hand pulled (up to two years) or when in sand. Older plants may need to be dug or hand pulled (up to two years) or when in sand. Older plants may need to be digging & hand pulling

Key To Chart Symbols

Medium Density

High Density

Low Density

Density Of Infested Area

Size Of Infested Area

Guidelines For Control

Don’t Be Fooled By These Look-A-Likes

Remember each mature plant can produce over 2 million seeds per year. Also, carefully remove last year’s purple loosestrife plants.

Cutting

Drought & Flood Feeding

Biological Control

Purple loosestrife can spread easily in swampy, moist environments such as wetlands, marshes, and riparian areas. If an infestation is in a dry, upland area, and severe purple loosestrife infestations are essentially all broad-leaved plant communities, leaving the area open to further invasion from nearby sources of purple loosestrife.

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If you currently have purple loosestrife in or about your garden, please remove it (roots and all) or at least cut off the flower tops before it begins to form seed and dispose of it in the garbage.

BEFORE

For more information ...

If you would like more information on purple loosestrife, the problems it causes, regulations to prevent its spread, or methods and permits for its control contact: