

Sailing for Everyone!



WayzataSailing.org

A non-profit community sailing center.

WCSC Environmental Lesson Plans

Purple Parachute

Overview:

Students get to engage in an activity that explains the life of Purple Loosestrife and how it spreads around the lake.

Lake Minnetonka Basics:

1. Cutting out invasive species could lead to more plants being spread to the rest of the lake.
2. Invasive Species tend to push out all other native life

Key Concepts

Purple Loosestrife is an invasive plant which attacks all local native plants. It is so resistant to extermination because it has thousands of tiny seeds in the top of each flower which can spread extremely easily through various means of transportation.

Materials

- 2 tarps
- Small balls (preferably foam)
- Students

Duration

30-40 minutes including discussion

Physical Activity

Low-Moderate

Activity

Purple Parachute!

1. Have students gather in a large open area

2. Divide them into two teams
3. Have each team gather at least 20 balls and put them on the tarp
4. Start two timers (one for each team) and have them start shaking the tarp as crazy as possible!
5. Stop the timers once the teams have gathered up all of the balls.
6. Go as many rounds as you see appropriate, and the team who has the fastest times wins!

Discussion

1. What would happen if you cut down the plants and didn't stop the seeds from spreading?
2. How can we stop these from growing in the future?