

# Purple Loosestrife

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# Ecosystem

- Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum Salicaria*) is originally native to Europe, Asia, Northwestern Africa and Southeastern Australia.
- Most commonly found in ditches, wet marshes, and on the shores of lakes
- Semi-Aquatic Species typically found in groupings in the form of bushes
- Average height of 4-7 feet
- Typically visible from July to September
- Spikes form at the top of each stem with 5-7 flowers
- Each flower contains thousands of tiny seeds which spread easily through wind, snow, rain, humans, animals, etc

# Removal/Prevention

- The best way to remove purple loosestrife from your yard is by hand digging.
- Make sure that all pieces of root tissue are removed and dry out the plant material thoroughly before disposal.
- Root masses can be treated with a herbicide, such as Round-Up.
- Place all purple loosestrife plant material in a dark colored garbage bag and ensure that the bag is tightly secured to prevent it from spreading in the landfill area. Wherever permitted, plant material should be burned.
- For large scale infestations and when digging is not feasible, removing the flower head is an easy alternative. Cut off the top of the plant in midsummer before the flowers set seed.
- Monitor the dig site for a couple of seasons to ensure no new plants are growing and, if so, remove promptly

# Pictures!!!



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# Permits to remove

- If hand-pulling, no permit is required
- If using any chemicals, DNR permit is required

# How to dispose when killed

- Put the plants in compostable plastic bags, then take the bags to a sanitary landfill site
- Composting is not the best way to get rid of it because the seeds may not be destroyed and the thick woody stem and roots take a long time to decompose
- Incineration is the most effective way to dispose of loosestrife

# Prevention

- Wear clothing that is not seed friendly, try to avoid bulky knits as your external layer
- Make sure you clean your equipment before using it after cleaning loosestrife
- When you remove seeds or other materials do not do so near any moving water
- Avoid walking in areas that are already infected

# Local Groups

- The Purple Loosestrife Management Program was established in the Minnesota DNR
- Lake Minnetonka Conservation District
- Lake Minnetonka Watershed District
- Lake Minnetonka Water Patrol



# Citations

- <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticplants/purpleloosestrife/control.html>
- <https://eatloosestrife.wordpress.com>
- <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/index.html>