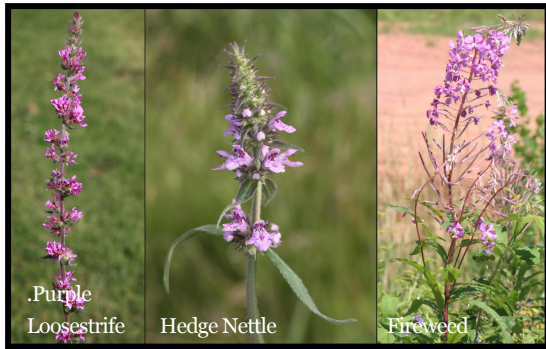


Similar Looking Plants

Other wild flowers that are not invasive can be mistaken for the purple loosestrife.

- Liatris, Fireweed, some mint species.



What Can Be Done?

- Do not use any variety of purple loosestrife in your garden, including Morden Pink, Morden's Gleam, and Dropmore Purple (all named *Lythrum virgatum*).
- Move plant clippings in plastic bags to avoid spreading seeds or pieces of roots.
- Use recommended removal methods.

Other Types Of Loosestrife

Some flowers are commonly called "loosestrife" but are not closely related and are not invasive. Plants known by the scientific name *Lysimachia* are non-invasive species.

- Swamp loosestrife
- Water loosestrife

Where Did It Come From?

- It came from Europe and Asia in the 1800's.
- It was accidentally introduced in ship ballasts and in wool.
- It was intentionally brought over for gardens and as a medicinal herb.

For more information:

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Canada



Invasive Plant Species

Purple Loosestrife



PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE IN PEI



- Two opposite leaves alternate down the length of the stem
- Leaves are pointed, narrower than they are wide with smooth edges. The base of the leaf clasps the stem tightly.



What Is It?

- Scientific name: *Lythrum salicaria* L.
Common name: spiked loosestrife
- Numerous pink to reddish-purple flowers with yellow centers
- Can grow up to 2 meters high
- Square stem with tiny hairs covering the stem and leaves

Why Is It A Problem?

- It can easily spread to surrounding areas by seeds or root pieces
- It has no natural enemies in North America to control populations
- It is very difficult to remove once a population is established

- It out-competes native plants and creates a monoculture
- It can clog waterways and ditches affecting recreation fishing and boating, as well as wildlife habitat.

How Can it be Removed?

- Hand removal is most effective from July and August to avoid spreading seeds
- Loosen soil with a garden fork or shovel to get as much of the roots as possible
- Roots need to be completely removed to prevent re-growth
- Large populations can be managed through repeated cutting or the use of biological control
- All removal methods need to be monitored regularly

