



IDENTIFICATION OF MINNESOTA AQUATIC INVASIVE:

Purple Loosestrife

(*Lythrum salicaria*)

SEARCH LOCATIONS

- Ditches and wetlands; river, lake and stream edges; gardens
- Full sun to partial shade

SEARCH TIME

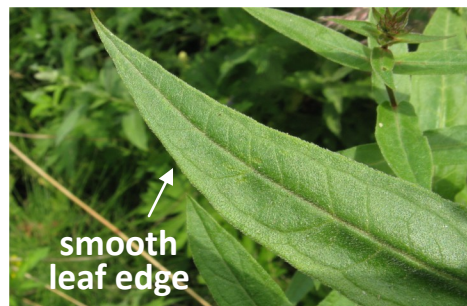
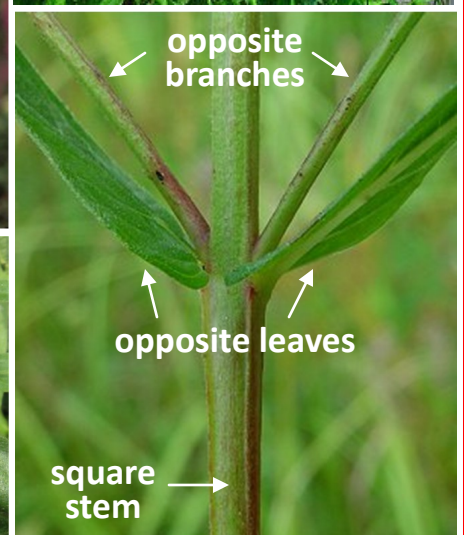
Mid-July through early September (flowering)

SEARCH IMAGE

- **multiple, branching** stems
- **magenta flower spike** at top of stem
- 4-7 feet tall

IDENTIFICATION CHECKLIST

- ✓ Pairs of leaves and **branches** attach **opposite** each other on stem (seldom in whorls of 3)
- ✓ **Square stem** (seldom 5- or 6-sided)
- ✓ **Smooth leaf edge** (not serrated/toothed)



LOOK-ALIKES with magenta flower spikes that grow in wet areas

Purple-fringed orchid



These MN native look-alikes have **round stems** and **alternate leaves**

INFORMATION ON MINNESOTA AQUATIC INVASIVE:

Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)

MINNESOTA STATUS: *Prohibited invasive species*

It is unlawful (a misdemeanor) to possess, import, purchase, transport, or introduce purple loosestrife except under a permit for disposal, control, research, or education.

IF YOU FIND A NEW OCCURANCE OF PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

- 1) Record its location (GPS coordinates, labeled dot on map or landmark)
- 2) Record the date
- 3) Document the plant (electronic images or make pressed samples that include items on the “checklist”)
- 4) Provide this information to the local MN DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist, Rich Rezanka (richard.rezanka@state.mn.us)

METHOD(S) OF REPRODUCTION

- Up to 300,000 seeds per spike are produced each year (survival rate is 60-70%; seeds are viable for up to 20 years and up to 20 months submerged in water)
- Underground stems (rhizomes) spread rapidly outward from original plant to form dense stands

VECTORS OF SPREAD

- Most seeds fall near parent
- Water currents, animals, boats and other recreational equipment and humans can transport the tiny seeds long distances

STRATEGIES FOR RESTORING NATIVE PLANT COMMUNITY

(Contact your local MN DNR for permit and specific details)

- 1) Ongoing purple loosestrife controls include chemical, mechanical, mowing/hand-cutting and biocontrol treatments [*Galerucella pusilla* and *G. calmariensis* (leaf-feeding), *Hylobius transversovittatus* (root-boring) and *Nanophyes marmoratus* (flower-feeding) weevils]
- 2) Allow native aquatic plant community to recover; plant with native wetland plants if needed

RESOURCES

Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health: <http://www.invasive.org>

MN Dept. of Natural Resources: http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/index_aquatic.html and http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/aboutdnr/reports/legislative/2012_invasive_species_annual_report_final.pdf

