

Scientific Name: Lythrum virgatum

Common Name: wand loosestrife

Description and Variation: Similar to Lythrum salicaria but glabrous, with leaves narrower, acute at base. Flowers are mostly paired or clustered in leafy open racemes. According to Minnesota taxonomists, wand loosestrife is difficult to distinguish from purple loosestrife. A number of cultivars of this species exist including Dropmore Purple, Morden Pink, Morden Gleam, and Morden Rose.

Economic Importance: This species and its various cultivars have been sold extensively by nurseries, garden outlets and garden catalogs. Potential threat to native wetlands.

Geographical Distribution: Probably statewide and regionwide (see above).

Habitat: Home gardens, wetlands

History: see above

Growth and Development: perennial

Reproduction: seed, cut segments

Response to Herbicides: as with Lythrum salicaria, Rodeo should be effective

Response to Cultural Methods: Small plants may be dug out.

Biocontrol Potentials: None are currently available. Bioagents being researched for L. salicaria may potentially be effective on Lythrum virgatum.

References:

Bailey, L. H. 1976. Hortus Third: A Concise Dictionary of Plants Cultivated in the United States and Canada. MacMillan Publishing Co. New York.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. 1988. Purple loosestrife species, horticultural varieties, and laws.

Skinner, Luke. On The Loose. Purple Loosestrife Newsletter of the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Justification for Inclusion on the Washington State Noxious Weed List: Because of the difficulty of distinguishing this species from Lythrum salicaria and because there is reason to believe that it too has the potential to invade and spread within wetlands. Adding wand loosestrife to the list reinforces the Washington State Department of Agriculture's quarantine prohibiting the sale and

distribution of Lythrum salicaria and Lythrum virgatum in Washington. It will also alleviate regulatory difficulties involving the enforcement of control of purple loosestrife given the taxonomic confusion between the two species and a host of hybrids and cultivars.

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PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE SPECIES, HORTICULTURAL VARIETIES, AND LAWS
 Compiled by
 Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
 Purple Loosestrife Program

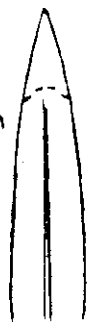
IDENTIFICATION OF LYTHRUMS

Lythrum salicaria:

Leaves usually more or less hairy, but not always.

Leaf may be rounded in young plants

Rounded or cordate leaf base on



Calyx lobes much shorter than the appendages



Lythrum virgatum:

Leaves hairless.

Elliptical leaves.

Tapered leaf base



Calyx lobes and appendages about equal

