

Garden loosestrife

Lysimachia vulgaris L.

Primrose Family

Key identifying traits

- ❑ Showy, yellow, primrose-like terminal flower clusters
- ❑ Five petals and reddish brown calyx margins
- ❑ Both the stems and leaves are softly hairy
- ❑ Lance shaped, opposite or whorled leaves
- ❑ Leaves are dotted with black or orange glands
- ❑ Erect plant growing 4 feet tall or more
- ❑ The fruit is a dry capsule



Biology and ecology

- Perennial; spreads by seeds and rhizomes
- Inhabits wetland and marshy sites
- In our county, flowering period has been observed to be between July and September
- Reported to be out-competing purple loosestrife (no relation) in western WA
- Blooms are an indication of well established plants since young plants don't appear to flower



Control

Prevention - Learn to identify plants; know your property; beware of ornamental starts and contaminated recreational equipment

Biological - None known and no research to date

Cultural - In combination with other methods, competitive vegetation & minimizing site disturbance helps

Mechanical - Small infestations can be dug, bagged and disposed of taking care not to disperse seeds; black plastic covers may be effective with small patches; limited by rhizomes and moist sites

Chemical - Broad leaf and non selective herbicides may be effective depending on site; special care, permit and license required for aquatic applications



Where found – The only recorded site in eastern WA is a limited infestation along the northern shoreline of Loon Lake in Stevens County.