

# Have you seen this invasive plant?

**Purple loosestrife** is a perennial plant that can aggressively colonize aquatic environments.

***Learn more at [www.nwcb.wa.gov](http://www.nwcb.wa.gov)***



Infestations of purple loosestrife are found across Washington. Individual plants can grow up to 9 feet tall. Mature plants can have 30-50 stems from a single root crown.

Squarish stems (4-6 sided) are a key identifying characteristic. Leaves are generally opposite and stalkless.



Flowers are showy, magenta-purple and found in 4-16 inch spikes from July-September. Each plant can produce up to 2 million seeds.

## Why is purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) a noxious weed?

- Purple loosestrife is a non-native, invasive plant that outcompetes native wetland plants, reducing food sources and habitat for local wildlife.
- This escaped ornamental spreads by root fragments and seeds.

## Where do you find purple loosestrife?

- Purple loosestrife thrives in wetland environments including ponds, rivers, meadows, roadside ditches, gardens and irrigation canals.
- It is capable of living in both freshwater and brackish water.

## What can you do?

- Learn to identify this Class B noxious weed.
- Please note that this is a prohibited plant that cannot be bought or sold in Washington.
- Remove individual plants, including rhizomes when possible. For larger sites, develop a management plan that combines several control methods.
- Report any sightings to your county noxious weed control board or to [noxiousweeds@agr.wa.gov](mailto:noxiousweeds@agr.wa.gov).



Washington State  
**Noxious Weed  
Control Board**

