

INVASIVE WEED WATCH

WABAMUN WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COUNCIL

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE (*Lythrum salicaria*)

This prohibited noxious weed is very well liked by gardeners because of its beautiful reddish-purple flowers, but it can also quickly infest and choke out wetlands! Once Purple Loosestrife invades an area, wildlife is forced to move as native vegetation is excluded and habitat for nesting water birds and other water-living mammals decreases.

Purple Loosestrife is a perennial weed and it is usually found in fresh-water habitat such as marshes, water-filled ditches, natural water ways and irrigation canals. It forms dense brush-like stands and can grow up to 2m height. It has a square woody stem and opposite leaves. Purple Loosestrife spreads mainly by seeds and can produce 1,000,000 seeds/year .

The best method of control is not introducing it to your landscape. However, if it is present on your property in small amounts, it should be controlled immediately because it is very difficult to get rid of. The most efficient way to control it is to remove the whole plant with care by hand-pulling and disposed of in a land-fill bound plastic bag. Grazing, cultivation and/or mowing are not an option as new plants can arise from stem and root fragments and be transported in wetland mud. There is selective chemical that can control Purple Loosestrife infestations such as Glyphosate, but it must be applied properly. Note: any herbicide applied near water bodies requires specific applicator certification and permits from Environment & Sustainable Resource Development. Consult your local Agricultural Fieldman for information. For more information also see the AIPC Plant Fact Sheets at: www.invasiveplants.ab.ca



Photo: Alberta Invasive Plants Council

To report Prohibited Noxious and Noxious weeds on crown land contact your local Environment and Sustainable Resource Development office. For weeds on all other lands contact your County/Municipality office.



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