

Purple Loosestrife

Lythrum salicaria

Northeast Michigan Priority Level: Widespread Invader

Identify it!

Purple loosestrife spreads rapidly along shorelines. It has a distinct square-shaped stem and bright magenta flowers with 5-7 petals that bloom from July-October. The plant can reach 6' tall and larger plants can have multiple stems.

Report it!

Tell us what you've found!

Visit www.huronpines.org/invasives or email invasives@huronpines.org.

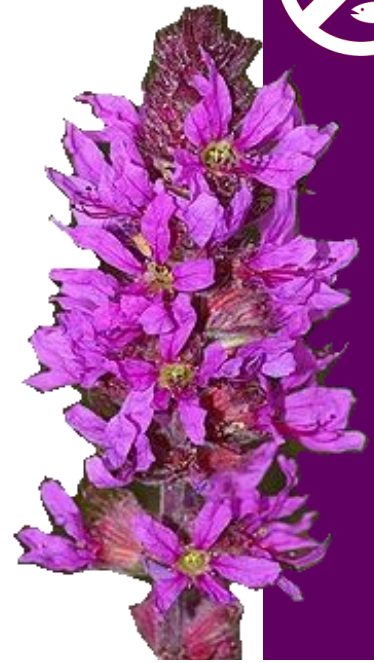
Remove it!

Purple loosestrife can be removed by manual pulling (make sure to get all the roots!), digging or use of herbicides. *Galerucella* beetles that eat the plant are also used as a biological control method. Permits are usually required for herbicide use in or around water bodies; contact Huron Pines or the DEQ for more information.

Understand it!

Purple loosestrife is a perennial herb native to Eurasia. At one time it was a widely used ornamental because of its beautiful showy flowers. Left unchecked it can form a dense monoculture, outcompeting native vegetation that provides higher quality food and habitat for wildlife.

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