



Purple Loosestrife

Lythrum salicaria



- Perennial
- Grows 6 to 8 feet tall
- Blooms midsummer
- Grows in shallow ponds, marshlands, or ditches
- Impedes water flow

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Suggested Control Methods for Purple Loosestrife

Manual & Mechanical Control

Hand Pulling/Digging: Best for young plants (under 2 years) or small populations in moist, loose soil; dig out the entire rootstock to prevent regrowth.

Cutting/Mowing: Ineffective alone as it promotes regrowth; cut flowering spikes before seeds develop and bag them, or mow repeatedly (multiple times a year for years).

Chemical Control

Herbicides: Effective for large patches; use aquatic-labeled glyphosate or triclopyr for wetland areas.

Application: Follow all label directions, wear protective gear, and avoid spraying in wind or rain to protect non-target plants and aquatic life.

Biological Control

Insects: Introduce specific beetles and weevils that feed only on purple loosestrife, preventing seeding and significantly reducing populations long-term.

Best Practices for All Methods

Proper Disposal: Bag all removed plant material (roots, stems, seed heads) and dispose in trash or burn to prevent spreading seeds.

Erosion Control: Take measures to prevent soil erosion, especially on shorelines.

Clean Equipment: Thoroughly clean boots, tools, and equipment to avoid transporting seeds.