



Deep Roots
Greater Heights



Purple Loosestrife (L. Scott)



In riparian areas (L. Scott)



Full bloom – Noxious stage

Maple Ridge Noxious Weeds Program

Purple Loosestrife

(*Lythrum salicaria*)

Designation: Provincially Noxious

History:

Introduced from Eurasia and first recorded in North America in 1814. It is now common in the Lower Fraser Valley and is regarded as a major concern, particularly in riparian areas.

How to Identify:

Size: Perennial herb, growing to 3 m tall.

Flowers: Purple-magenta spikes, blooming from July to October.

Leaves: Opposite to whorled, dark green, lance-shaped.

Stem: Stiff, smooth, square, woody.

Location: Riparian areas, disturbed wet soil areas (including roadsides), gardens.

Mistaken Identity: Can be confused with native fireweed, but purple loosestrife does not produce windborne seeds.

Danger / Impact

Aggressively invades riparian areas displacing native vegetation.

Plant roots can alter waterways.

Reduces food sources for wildlife.

Each plant can produce up to 2.5 million seeds. Can also reproduce by root fragments.

Management:

Pull from base of plant, taking care to remove all rhizomes. Small patches can be dug. Remaining root fragments will re-sprout. Biological control (*Galerucella beetle*) of large infestations is relatively successful (and being used in the Fraser Valley) but may require ongoing, repeat introductions and will not lead to eradication.

Distribution in DMR:

Small groups of plants found in only a few areas; a weed for rapid response and containment.

Information and photos:

http://www.weedsbc.ca/pdf/purple_loosestrife.pdf

http://westvancouver.ca/sites/default/files/dwv/assets/home-building-property/docs/pets-wildlife-environment/Invasive-Plants/APPENDIX_A_-_JANUARY_28_2014_DRAFT.pdf

<http://linnet.geog.ubc.ca/>

<http://www.bcinvvasives.ca/images/stories/plants/purpleloosestrife>

<http://iscmv.ca/target-species/species-profiles>

Timing: July to August when plant is blooming (and therefore clearly visible) but prior to seeds appearing.

Disposal: Do not compost in home compost bin; put in municipal site.

Follow-up: Monitor at least once annually for re-growth and new seedlings. Eradication of large infestation is unlikely but repeated annual treatment will contain the plant at lower levels.

Restoration and Planting Alternatives:

Plant native or non-invasive species including:

Native Plants:

- Hardhack (*Spiraea douglasii*)
- Red-osier dogwood (*Cornus stolonifera*)
- Willow species (*Salix spp.*)
- Common bulrush (*Typha latifolia*)

Non-Native Plants:

- Blazing star (*Liatriis spicata*)
- Tall delphinium (*Delphinium elatum*)
- Bloody iris (*Iris sanguinea*)
- Hardhack (*Spiraea douglasii*)
- Spike speedwell (*Veronica spicata*)



Purple loosestrife



Fireweed – Native Species easily mistaken for Purple Loosestrife

Who Do you Call?

1) REPORT PROHIBITED WEEDS – Report-A-Weed: www.reportaweedbc.ca 1-888-WEEDSBC

2) DMR: 604-467-7363 – AND SEE: <http://www.mapleridge.ca/714/Invasive-Plant-Species>