

# PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

*Lythrum salicaria*



Be on the lookout for this invader!



**Description:** Herbaceous perennial with showy magenta-colored flowers on spikes in mid to late summer, 1.5-6 ft. tall; strongly developed taproot; stem becomes woody with age. Spreads vigorously in moist soil conditions. Very persistent.

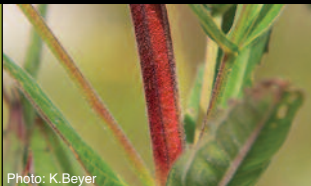
**Habitat:** Wetlands, lake shorelines, streambanks, and disturbed wet areas (e.g. ditches), tolerates up to 50% shade.

## **Mode of Spread:**

Reproduces by seed, or vegetatively by resprouting from cut stems and regenerates from pieces of root stock.

# IDENTIFICATION

STEM



**Stems:** Squarish, 4-6 sided, smooth or fine-haired with nodes evenly spaced. Becomes woody as plant matures.

LEAVES



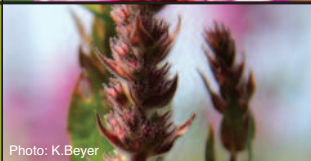
**Leaves:** Pointed or linear shape; opposite or spiraled around stem; flat to somewhat curved; 1-4"; larger leaves at the base.

FLOWERS



**Flowers:** Numerous, purple clusters of two to several, 5-7 petals; blooms July through September.

SEEDS



**Fruit and Seeds:** Seed pod, small, abundant seed production (2 million seeds per plant).

## Known to occur at these locations in Northern Michigan:

- Elk River Chain of Lakes
- Walloon Lake
- Douglas Lake
- Bear River
- Crooked Lake
- Widespread throughout the Northern Lower Peninsula.

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