

Purple Loosestrife

Lythrum salicaria



Perennial broadleaf herb.

Widespread in New Castle County, sporadic in Kent and Sussex Counties.

Opposite lance-shaped leaves arranged in pairs along the stem. Five to six-petaled magenta to purple flowers arranged in a tall spike and bloom from July to

September.

Occurs in marshes, stream margins, floodplains, and wet meadows. It can tolerate drier conditions and may occur along roadsides and low fields.

Individual plants can produce up to 2 million seeds.

Purple Loosestrife - Control Methods

Cut Stem – An effective treatment option for small colonies. Cut stems one to two inches above the ground and apply a 50 % solution of glyphosate formulated for use in wetlands to the cut stump. Treatment is most effective prior to flowering in early summer.

Late May - June

Foliar Spray – a 2% solution of Glyphosate and water in a 0.5% non-ionic surfactant formulated for use in wetlands is effective for larger populations. Treatment should be done prior to seed production, or collect seed heads in bags and remove from site and dispose of properly.

June - July

Biological Control - Biological control using several imported beetle species approved by the USDA is the most effective method for long-term control of large infestations. Although these beetles occasionally feed on native plant species, their potential impact to non-target plants is considered to be minimal.

Spring

Due to potentially large seedbank, control effort may need to be repeated for several seasons.