



903 N. Black Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 582-3265

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE MANAGEMENT TIPS

Purple loosestrife, a member of the Loosestrife family, is a perennial forb. It can grow up to ten feet tall and prefers moist or riparian habitats. Purple loosestrife has a taproot with short rhizomes. The stems are square or octagonal. The leaves are lance-shaped, have smooth margins and are opposite or whorled on the stem. **Each plant can produce up to 2.5 million seeds per year, which can remain viable for up to three years.** Purple loosestrife forms dense monotypic stands that displace native wetland plants. Waterfowl, especially ducks, avoid wetlands that are dominated by purple loosestrife and waterfowl production decreases due to the loss of suitable nesting habitat.



Management and control efforts must be planned for several consecutive growing seasons at the existing site in order to prevent seed formation/dispersal. After any treatment, the infested area(s) should be monitored to ensure that purple loosestrife does not re-infest from root or seed.

Purple loosestrife is not very common in Gallatin County. If you think you have found this plant, please contact your local county Weed District.

Effective control measures for the management of purple loosestrife include:

- 1. Mechanical (hand pulling & digging):** Small infestations can be controlled by removing all roots and underground stems. Return to the area for several years to monitor for and remove any new plants. Dispose of plant material by drying and burning or by placing material in a bag and taking it to your local landfill. Wear gloves when pulling plants.
- 2. Herbicide: Always follow directions on the label. The label is the law!** The following herbicides are commonly used to control purple loosestrife. If treating loosestrife growing in an aquatic setting, make sure that the herbicide that you use is labeled for aquatic sites. **Do NOT use these herbicides in lawns, turf or ornamental settings – read the label.**

Mixing rates in small backpack or hand sprayers are as follows:

Glyphosate:	3 oz herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
2,4-D:	1 - 2 oz herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
Garlon 3A:	1.25 - 2 oz herbicide to 1 gallon of water.

Rates in large sprayers are as follows:

Glyphosate:	5.7 pints herbicide per acre.
2,4-D:	1 – 2 quarts herbicide per acre.
Garlon 3A:	6 – 8 quarts herbicide per acre.

NOTE: Adding a surfactant to your tank mix may enhance the performance of your herbicide and is required for certain herbicides (read the label). Add 0.5 - 1 oz per gallon of water for backpack sprayers or 1 – 2 pints per 100 gallons for large sprayers.

- 3. Integrated management:** Management of purple loosestrife is more effective when more than one strategy is used.