



Purple Loosestrife
Lythrum salicaria



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(Lythrum salicaria)

The Colorado Noxious Weed Act requires every landowner to **eradicate this weed** wherever it is found on his or her property. The Colorado Department of Transportation controls these weeds on its right-of-way.

Purple loosestrife is a perennial forb. It produces multiple four-sided stems that can grow two to eight feet tall. Leaves are 2 to 5 inches long, lance-shaped and whorled on the stems. Flowers are tightly grouped in long, vertical heads; they bloom from the bottom up. They are pinkish-purple in color, about one inch long, and have 5 to 7 petals.

This plant is found primarily in wetlands and riparian areas. The key to controlling this weed is early detection when infestations are small, because **a single, mature plant can produce up to three million seeds per year**. More details about this species and herbicides to control it are online at <http://www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds>.

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