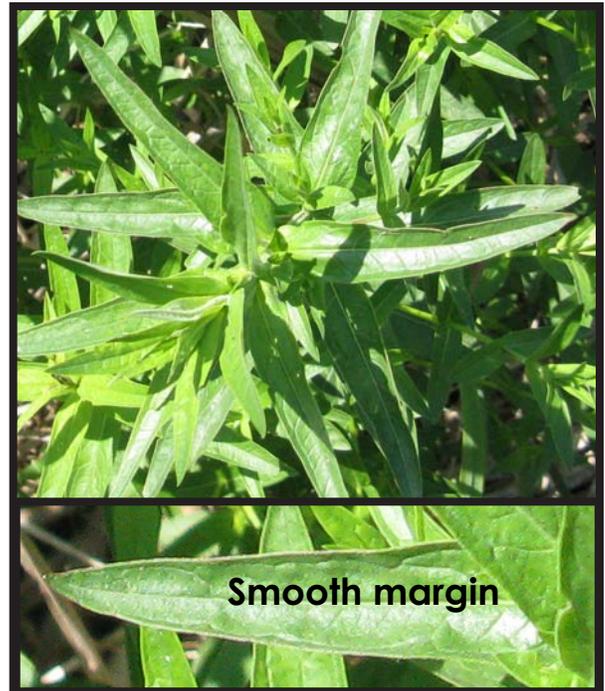


Purple loosestrife

Lythrum salicaria

Minnesota C-Value: 0
Wetland Indicator Status: OBL
Non-native Invasive



Leaves: Opposite or in whorls of 3. Sometimes clasping, usually hairy, lanceolate, margins entire. 3-5 times longer than wide.

Stems: Square stems, hairy or smooth, can be 'woody'; 4-6 ft tall. Old stems remain over winter.

Flowers and fruit: 6-petaled purple-red flowers on spikes 3-12 in. long. Flowers often wrinkled; many flowers in flower head.

Plant communities: Shallow marshes, wet meadows, lakeshores, streamsides.

Comments: Perennial. Prohibited noxious weed in Minnesota. Has the capacity to out-compete most marsh vegetation. Highly prolific seed producer, so management is encouraged before flowers go to seed. Bio-controls available. The native, less robust loosestrife (*L. alatum*) has fewer, lighter colored flowers in the flower head.