

Invasive Species of Truckee Meadows

Purple loosestrife

Lythrum salicaria



Identification

Purple loosestrife can be identified by its showy, dense stalks full of purple flowers, as well as by its lanceolate (narrow) leaves that appear on opposite sides of the stem. Each plant is made up of several woody stems. *L. salicaria* can be found growing in moist soils near water.

Reproduction

Purple loosestrife reproduces mainly by seeds. Each plant can produce millions of tiny seeds that are readily dispersed by wind, water, wildlife, and humans. It also reproduces vegetatively by sprouting from the roots.



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Plant These Native Alternatives:



Bigleaf lupine
(*Lupinus polyphyllus*)



Penstemon spp.



Wild mint
(*Mentha canadensis*)



Purple sage
(*Salvia dorrii*)

Other alternatives:
Canadian milkvetch
(*Astragalus canadensis*)
Willowherb
(*Epilobium* spp.)

For more information and resources, check out this link:



Management

Hand removal is recommended for small infestations. A shovel or root slayer can be used to dig out the majority of the roots.



Mowing is not recommended as roots will readily resprout and reseed. For larger infestations, herbicides may be used, however be sure to **read and follow the label** and make sure they are appropriate for use near water.