

Our Goals

PREVENTION

Prevent the introduction of invasive species into the SLELO PRISM region.

EARLY DETECTION & RAPID RESPONSE

Detect new and recent invaders and rapidly respond to eliminate all individuals within a specific area.

COOPERATION

Share resources, expertise, personnel, equipment, and information.

INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

Collect, utilize, and share information regarding surveys, infestations, control methods, monitoring, and research.

CONTROL

Control invasive species infestations by using best management practices, methods and techniques to include:

ERADICATION - Eliminate all individuals and the seed bank from an area.

CONTAINMENT - Reduce the spread of established infestations.

SUPPRESSION - Reduce the density but not necessarily the total infested area.

RESTORATION

Develop and implement effective restoration methods for areas that have been degraded by invasive species and where suppression or control has taken place.

EDUCATION / OUTREACH

Increase public awareness and understanding of invasive species issues through volunteer monitoring, citizen science and community outreach.

INNOVATION

Explore technologies to enhance invasive species prevention and management initiatives.

SLELO PRISM

Hosted by The Nature Conservancy

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www.sleloinvasives.org

www.swallowwortcollaborative.org

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Explore, Observe, Report

Learn to recognize and report invasive species in our region.

For details contact:

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Stay Connected

- . Email megan.pistolese@tnc.org
- . Type “join e-mail list” in subject space.
- . Hit send and receive seasonal e-newsletters and event updates.

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SLELO PRISM
St. Lawrence Eastern Lake Ontario Partnership for Invasive Species Management

**Purple
Loosestrife**
(Lythron salicaria)



SLELO PRISM
**Protecting Our
Lands & Waters**

What is Purple Loosestrife?

Purple Loosestrife (*Lythron salicaria*) is an herbaceous perennial wetland plant native to Eurasia. Because of its stunning purple flowers and perceived beauty, this plant continues to be sold in the nursery trade. Purple loosestrife is a prolific seed producer. A single plant can produce up to one million seeds in a single season! Loosestrife is an invader of wetlands, drainage canals, and roadside ditches. It forms homogeneous stands that outcompete and replace important native wetland plants that are necessary to support wildlife. Below are a couple photos that demonstrate how loosestrife can dominate an area.



You Can Stop The Spread:

Purple loosestrife is on the **NYS Prohibited & Regulated Plant Species list**; you can help stop its spread by not purchasing or selling this plant. Spread can also be reduced by not walking through purple loosestrife colonies during blooming season (July-Sept.) when seeds can easily attach to your clothing, and by not picking for ornamental purposes.

Control & Management:

Physical Control: This method is best for infestations **less than 100** plants. Pull plants before flowering begins to avoid spreading seeds (Don't attempt from July-September).

***Mowing isn't recommended as it easily spreads plant fragments and seeds to other areas.**

Chemical Application: Glyphosate (Roundup®) is effective, but requires permits if site of application is near water or not on private property. It is important to follow directions on the pesticide label and all regulations to avoid damaging the ecosystem and to ensure successful removal of plants.

Biological Control: This is the best option for large-scale infestation. There are 4 insects that have been approved by USDA as a bio-agent; however, the beetle, *Galerucella californiensis*, is recommended. *Contact DEC to obtain a permit and learn where to obtain the insect.*

Purple Loosestrife Identification:

Flowers are showy purple to pink flower spikes that bloom from the bottom to the top from early July to September.



Leaves grow up to 4" long and 1" wide, toothless, gradually tapering to a pointed tip, with a rounded or heart-shaped base.



Stems grow upright, stiff, and usually four-sided, green to purple in color, often branching making the plant bushy in appearance. Plant can reach up to 3 - 7 feet in height or more.

