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## PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE MANAGEMENT TIPS

Purple loosestrife is a perennial and a member of the Loosestrife family. It can grow up to 10 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 3 years.** Purple loosestrife forms dense monotypic stands that displace native wetland plants. Waterfowl, especially ducks, avoid wetlands that are dominated by purple loosestrife. 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 and to monitor for, and appropriately treat, any new plants that emerge.**

**Control measures that have been found to be effective for the management of purple loosestrife include:**

- 1. Mechanical treatment (hand-pulling & digging):** Small infestations can be controlled by removing all roots and underground stems. Be sure to monitor the area for several seasons to ensure that there is no re-growth or new plants. Dispose of plant material by drying and burning, or by placing material in a bag and taking it to your local landfill.
- 2. Herbicide treatment: Be sure to always follow directions on the label. The label is the law!** The following herbicides are commonly used to control purple loosestrife. If treating in an aquatic setting, make sure that the herbicide that you use is labeled for aquatic sites.

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

Glyphosate:	1.5 - 2 oz herbicide to 1 gallon of water.
2,4-D:	2.5 oz herbicide to 1 gallon of water
Garlon 3A:	1.5 – 2.5 oz herbicide to 1 gallon of water

**Rates in large sprayers are as follows:**

Glyphosate:	2 – 4 quarts herbicide per acre
2,4-D:	2 gallons herbicide per 100 gallons water
Garlon 3A:	1.5 – 2 gallons herbicide per acre

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

**After any treatment, the infested area(s) should be monitored to ensure that purple loosestrife does not re-infest from root or seed.**

**Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply discrimination or endorsement by the Gallatin County Weed Department.**