

# Purple Loosestrife

## Please help eradicate



## **Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*), an aggressive invader!**

**Controlling the spread of purple loosestrife is crucial to protecting vital fish, wildlife and native plant habitat! Purple loosestrife can easily spread if improper control methods are used.**

**PROPER DISPOSAL of plant material is important.** Put all plant pieces in plastic bags (vegetation rots quickly in plastic) and take the bags to a sanitary landfill site. Composting is not advised, as purple loosestrife seeds may not be destroyed and the thick, woody stem and roots take a long time to decompose. Incineration is an effective way to dispose of plant material.

**BE AWARE** that your clothes and equipment may transport the small seeds to new areas. Thoroughly brush off your clothes and equipment before leaving the site.

### **DIGGING & HAND PULLING**

Pulling purple loosestrife by hand is easiest when plants are young (up to two years) or when in sand. Older plants have larger roots that can be eased out with a garden fork. Remove as much of the root system as possible, because broken roots may sprout new plants.

### **CUTTING**

Removing flowering spikes will prevent this year's seeds from producing more plants in future years-- remember each mature plant can produce over 2 million seeds per year. At sites where plants have gone to seed, remove all of the flowering spikes first by bending them over a plastic bag and cutting them off into the bag. Finally, cut the stems at the ground to inhibit growth