Lythrum salicaria

Purple loosestrife LYSA2

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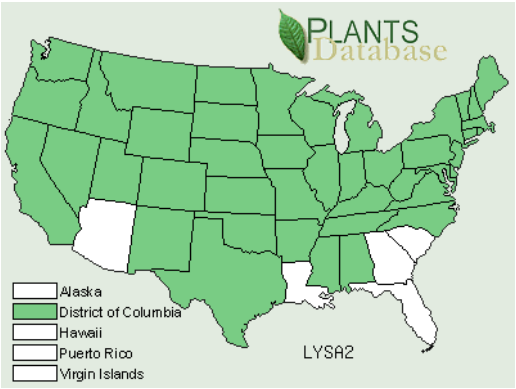

Voucher specimens not needed in NRS.

Lythrum salicaria

Purple loosestrife LYSA2

Form: Perennial, 1-3 m, numerous five or six-sided woody stems arising from a single rootstock.

Leaves: Opposite or whorled, lance-shaped, sessile, heart-shaped or rounded at the base.

Flowers/fruit: Magenta-colored, dense flower spikes. Individual flowers have 5-7 petals. Fruit is a capsule.

Habitat: Easily reproduces vegetatively. Capable of invading many wetland types, including freshwater wet meadows, tidal and non-tidal marshes, river and stream banks, pond edges, reservoirs, and ditches.

Similar species: *Lythrum alatum* (winged loosestrife) is a rare plant, usually shorter in stature, 0.2-0.7 m tall, with alternate leaves (except for the very lowest). Winged loosestrife flowers are solitary in the upper axils, while purple loosestrife flowers are in dense spikes.

Notes_____

Lythrum salicaria
Purple loosestrife

Steve Dewey, Utah State University,
www.forestryimages.org

Linda Wilson, University of Idaho,
www.forestryimages.org

David Cappaert, ,
www.forestryimages.org

Bonnie Harper-Lore, Federal Highway
Administration, United States

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