


# LOOSESTRIFE

invasive  
fact sheet




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Purple loosestrife invades Vermont's fields, marshes and bogs. It is easy to see in the summer when its showy magenta blooms are at their peak.




Recognize

purple loosestrife



© Leslie Mehrhoff/IPANE


magenta flowers



© Leslie Mehrhoff/IPANE

growth in dense stands of stems

opposite, long, narrow leaves



© Judy Preston/The Nature Conservancy



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## DID YOU KNOW?

As the leaves of purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) decompose in water, they secrete high levels of tannic acid. Research shows that American toad (*Bufo americanus*) tadpoles suffer increased mortality rates in this highly acidic environment.



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- *Functional Ecology*, 2005



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## purple loosestrife

For small infestations:

-  Hand pull individual plants by grasping each stem at its base and pulling slowly to remove all the root.
-  Put the discarded vegetation into a plastic garbage bag to decompose.

For large infestations:

-  The Vermont Department of Environmental Conservation's Water Quality Division releases beetles (below) near large patches of loosestrife. Call 802-241-3777 to report locations of loosestrife or learn more on-line at [vtwaterquality.org](http://vtwaterquality.org).



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DO NOT COMPOST THIS PLANT! Plant fragments can re-sprout



## non-invasive alternatives



joe pye-weed  
*Eupatorium maculatus*



blazing star  
*Liatris spicata*

purple  
coneflower

*Echinacea  
purpurea*



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cardinal  
flower

*Lobelia  
cardinalis*



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Wise On Weeds!

The Nature Conservancy  
SAVING THE LAST GREAT PLACES ON EARTH