

HUBBARD COUNTY AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES WATCH



Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)

SEARCH LOCATIONS

- Ditches and **wetlands**;
river, lake and stream edges;
gardens
- Full sun to partial shade

SEARCH TIME

- **Mid-July through early September**
(flowering)

SEARCH IMAGE

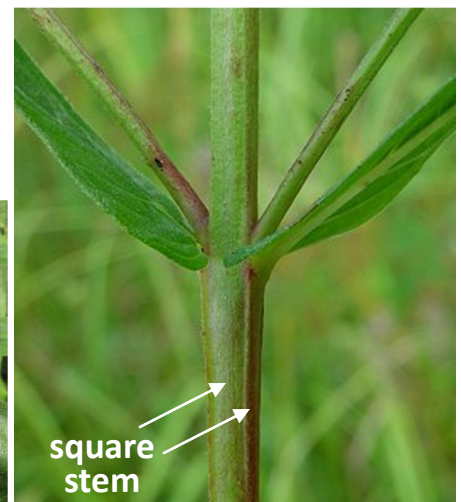
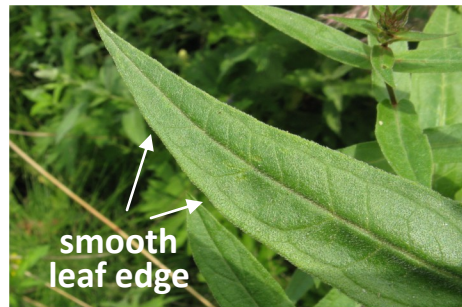
- **Magenta flower spike** at top of stem
- **4-7 feet** tall

IDENTIFICATION CHECKLIST

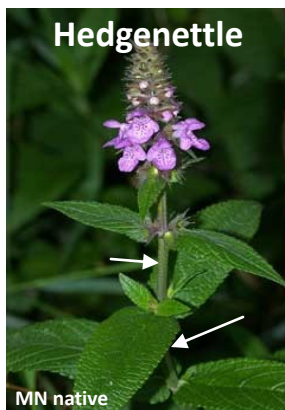
- ✓ 1) **Square stem**
(seldom 5- or 6-sided)
- ✓ 2) **Smooth leaf edge**
(not serrated/toothed)

OTHER HELPFUL NOTES

- A single vein runs parallel to the leaf edge



MN NATIVE LOOK-ALIKES with **magenta flower spikes** that grow in wet areas



Hedgenettle has a **square stem** and **toothed leaf edge**

These three look-alikes have **round stems** and **smooth leaf edges**

INFORMATION ON HUBBARD COUNTY AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES WATCH:

Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*)

MINNESOTA STATUS: *Prohibited invasive species*

It is unlawful (a misdemeanor) to possess, import, purchase, transport, or introduce purple loosestrife except under a permit for disposal, control, research, or education.

IF YOU FIND A NEW OCCURANCE OF PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

- 1) Record its location (GPS coordinates, labeled dot on map or landmark)
- 2) Record the date
- 3) Document the plant (electronic images that include items on the “checklist”)
- 4) Provide this information to the local MN DNR Aquatic Invasive Species Specialist. Name and contact information can be found at: <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/contacts.html>

METHOD(S) OF REPRODUCTION

- Up to 300,000 seeds per spike are produced each year (survival rate is 60-70%; seeds are viable for up to 20 years and up to 20 months submerged in water)
- Underground stems (rhizomes) spread rapidly outward from original plant to form dense stands

PATHWAYS OF SPREAD

- Most seeds fall near parent
- Water currents, animals, boats and other recreational equipment and humans can transport the tiny seeds long distances

RESOURCES

Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health: <http://www.invasive.org>

MN Dept. of Natural Resources: http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/index_aquatic.html and http://files.dnr.state.mn.us/aboutdnr/reports/legislative/2012_invasive_species_annual_report_final.pdf

2/2016

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE BIOCONTROLS

