PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

Lythrum salicaria

CONTROL

Hand Pulling

New infestations of purple loosestrife typically consist of a few scattered plants that can be effectively controlled by hand pulling if the root crown is fully removed. Established infestations will have too large of roots to effectively pull. Be sure to remove all parts of the plant from the site because fragments of the plant can re-sprout if left on site.

Mowing

Purple loosestrife often occurs in sites that are too wet for mowing, but cutting plants as low to the ground as possible can reduce seed production. Best time for cutting is after flower but before full seed development.

Biological control

There are currently 5 species of insects that have been released as biocontrol for purple loosestrife in the US; however, infestations in Montana are not large enough to warrant the use of biocontrol as a method of control. Biocontrol is not a recommended method of control for purple loosestrife in Missoula County.

Grazing

Grazing is not a recommended method of control for purple loosestrife because of its habitat.

Ideal Timing for Treatment Options

Spring	Summer	Fall
Hand pull only new infestations (not established), thoroughly remove all fragments of plant.		
	Cut low to ground before seeding	
Glyphosate: Clip flowers prior		
Other Foliar Spray		Other Foliar Spray
	Biological Control	

Herbicide

Since purple loosestrife infestations occur in wetland and riparian habitats, herbicides must have an aquatic label in order to be used to treat them. This will also effect the time of year that will be the most advantageous for the herbicide you are using. Seasonal fluctuations in weather my cause an increase in the water table which could push back your spraying, or require a different herbicide. Please contact the Missoula County Weed District prior to any herbicide treatments for purple loosestrife. The herbicide chart on the back lists approved controls for purple loosestrife. Always consult product labels and read them carefully to ensure correct species/land management usage and chemical application.



Purple Loosestrife Life Cycle

Life Cycle	Root	Leaves	Stems	Flower	Seed/Fruit
Perennial	Short rhizomes and taproot	Clasping, lance-shaped leaves with smooth edge. Opposite or whorled on stem.	3 to 10 feet tall, square or octagonal.	Rose to purple petals. Clustered on top of stems. Flower clusters may be 2 inches to 3 feet long. Sepals are joined into a tube with 5 to 7 lobes.	Small brown capsules with many seeds.

Herbicides for Purple Loosestrife, *Lythrum salicaria*

Active Ingredient	Rate	Efficacy	Comments
Glyphosate	1% solution	Use while plant is actively growing. Clip flowers prior to treatment.	Non-selective herbicide = will injure or kill vegetation it contacts. Be sure to use aquatic labeled glyphosate in areas accordingly.
Imazapyr	1 pint/acre	Use while plant is actively growing after mid-bloom until killing frost.	Note crop rotation restrictions prior to use. Do not apply to root zone of desirable trees.
Metsulfuron	1 oz/acre	Effective if used while plant is actively growing.	Apply only to pasture, rangeland, and non-crop sites.
Triclopyr	1.5% solution	Mid-bloom or full bloom stage. Or early season on seedlings.	Allowed on non-irrigation ditch banks and in seasonally dry wetlands.

Information on diagnostic identifying characteristics adapted from "Montana's Noxious Weeds" by Pokorny and Mangold, Montana State University Extension Bulletin EB0159.

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WEED DISTRICT