

## PROMOTE NATIVE REPLACEMENTS

Plant native species in areas where Purple Loosestrife has been growing.

- Spotted Gayfeather  
(*Liatris punctata*) also has showy pinkish-purple flowering spikes and is a significant source of nectar for native butterflies and other pollinators.
- Rocky Mountain Penstemon  
(*Penstemon strictus*)
- Beebalm  
(*Monarda fistulosa*)
- Purple Coneflower  
(*Echinacea spp.*)
- Colorado Columbine  
(*Aquilegia spp.*)
- Curlytop Knotweed  
(*Polygonum lapathifolium*)

Other ideas can be found on:

- Colorado Native Plant Society  
[www.conps.org](http://www.conps.org)
- Boulder Open Space and Mountain Parks  
[www.bouldercolorado.gov/openspace](http://www.bouldercolorado.gov/openspace)

Be sparing with fertilizer, which can give weeds an advantage over native species.

Full list of noxious weeds:

### Colorado Department of Agriculture

700 Kipling Street Suite 4000  
Lakewood, CO 80215-8000  
303-239-4100

[www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds](http://www.colorado.gov/ag/weeds)

### Boulder Integrated Pest Management Program

[www.BoulderColorado.gov/IPM](http://www.BoulderColorado.gov/IPM)



## Boulder Police

### Code Enforcement Unit

Public Safety Building  
1805 33rd Street  
Boulder, Colorado  
80301

Phone: 303-441-3333  
[www.bouldercolorado.gov](http://www.bouldercolorado.gov)

## Boulder Police Code Enforcement Unit

# GUIDE TO PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

*Working with the community to  
provide service and safety.*



**Dispatch: 303-441-3333**

# “LIST A” NOXIOUS WEED

## PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) is a hardy perennial weed with spikes of eye-catching rose-purple flowers. It is on Colorado’s “List A” of noxious weeds, which *requires you to remove it* from your property. Native to a swath of Eurasia from Great Britain to southeast Asia, purple loosestrife was introduced to North America in the 19<sup>th</sup> century as an ornamental and as a medicinal plant to treat bacterial infections and intestinal maladies. Plants create dense

populations with each plant producing up to **3 million seeds** annually that are viable for up to **20 years**.



### Key ID Points:

1. Showy pinkish-purple flowers bloom in long vertical racemes.
2. Lance-shaped leaves have smooth edges.
3. Four sided stem.

**DO NOT COMPOST!**

## IDENTIFYING PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

Clusters of pink to magenta flowers, each with 5-7 petals, grow on spikes that range from 4 to 10 feet tall. Leaves are 2-5” long, lance-shaped and rounded at the base, and without stems. Mature plants can have 30-50 spikes growing from a single rootstock. Although it is thought of as a wetland herb growing along moist to wet habitats, it is also found in landscaping plans and along rights of way.

## CONTROLLING PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE



If purple loosestrife is growing in your garden, remove plants immediately and consider a substitute. There are many planting alternatives that are better suited to Colorado and beneficial to wildlife that you can find listed in this brochure. For more information refer to Colorado Native Plant Society’s website, [www.conps.org](http://www.conps.org).

- **Early detection** is key when infestations are small and fairly easy to control, and before seed numbers have become overwhelming. Be sure that you have identified purple loosestrife properly, as native gayfeather species (*Liatris spp.*) may be confused for loosestrife.
- **Manual control:** Pull and cut purple loosestrife before seed set to prevent seed distribution. Try to pull out the entire rootstock. A hand cultivator or shovel will be helpful,

especially for older plants and those in deeper soils. Purple loosestrife can spread from stem cuttings and rootstock fragments, so rake the area that has been treated and bag all fragments. Follow-up treatments for purple loosestrife are recommended for at least three years after initial removal.

- **Curb fertilizer use:** Studies show that abundant phosphates, nitrates, and ammonia support purple loosestrife.



## Boulder Code Enforcement Unit

Public Safety Building  
1805 33rd Street  
Boulder, Colorado  
80301

Phone: 303-441-3333  
[www.bouldercolorado.gov](http://www.bouldercolorado.gov)