



NCDA&CS

Plant Industry Division Plant Protection Section

PEST ALERT

Purple Loosestrife

Lythrum salicaria L.



Purple Loosestrife (PLS) is a highly invasive wetland plant preferring wet meadows, river and stream banks, lake shores, tidal and non-tidal marshes, prairie potholes, and ditches. Forming dense stands that can dominate native vegetation, PLS displaces native plants and animals including waterfowl. Its spread is highly rapid due to its prolific seed production.

Tall floral spikes occur July to October in North Carolina (A). The stems are square (B). Plants stand an average of two to six feet in height and are multi-stemmed from a single rootstock (C). Purple loosestrife prefers wet areas (D).

ECOLOGICAL THREAT:

Aggressive growth and prolific seed production help this plant outcompete native plants and displace animals that rely on those natives. Young plants may produce 100,000 seed and mature plants upwards of 2.5 million seeds per year.

IDENTIFICATION:

Growth Habit: clumping and multi-stemmed
Height: 2'- 6' average
Flowers: long spikes above plant, blooms July – October, pink to purple
Leaves: dark green, opposite, lance-shaped, no leaf stem and are round to heart-shaped at base

SIGNS AND SYMPTOMS:

Tall flowering spikes from July through October are the best indicators of infestation in or near wet areas. Early identification greatly aids in eradicating this aggressive weed species. Common lookalikes include fireweed (*Chamerion angustifolium*).

WHAT TO DO:

Collect a specimen: You may cut a sample from a specimen and place in a Ziploc bag for identification by your local extension agent. If determined positive contact the Regulatory Weed Specialist at (919) 707-3741.

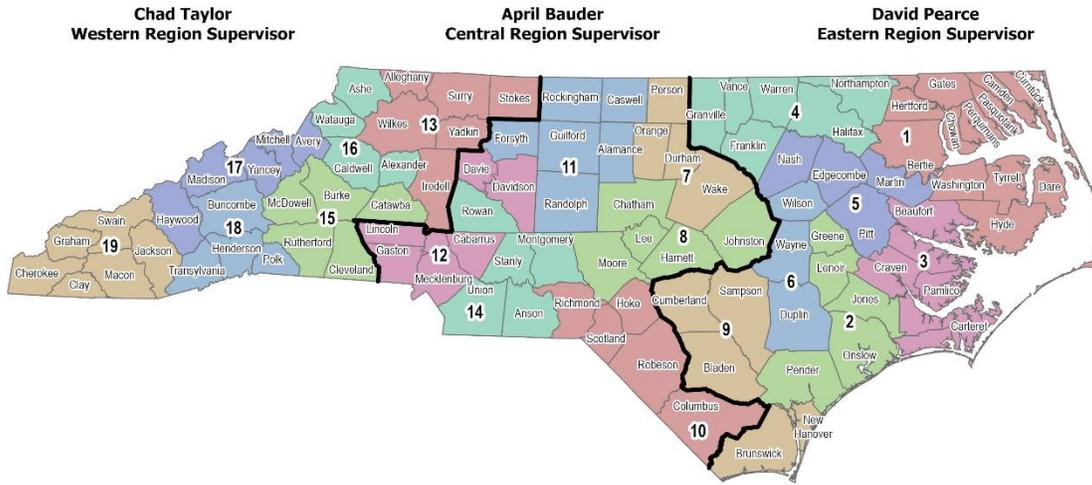
Take a picture: Digital pictures may be sent to jarred.driscoll@ncagr.gov

Plant an alternative: Queen of the prairie (*Filipendula rubra*), Joe Pye weed (*Eutrochium* spp.), Veronica spp. or salvia spp.

Report a site: Contact your local Plant Pest Specialist (see back of sheet for contact information) or Jarred Driscoll, Regulatory Weed Specialist (jarred.driscoll@ncagr.gov, 919-707-3741).

Note: This is a regulated plant for the state of North Carolina. No such plants may be sold, transported or moved. Should you observe this plant anywhere in NC, please contact NCDA&CS.

NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
Plant Industry Division – Plant Protection Section
Plant Pest Specialist Work Areas



Specialist's Names, Contact Information and Assigned Areas

Area 1:	Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Hyde, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Tyrrell, Washington	Joe Davenport	(919) 608-0635
Area 2:	Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, Pender	Bonnie Faulkner	(252) 521-3180
Area 3:	Beaufort, Carteret, Craven, Pamlico	David Pearce	(252) 670-1742
Area 4:	Franklin, Granville, Halifax, Northampton, Vance, Warren	Derreck Long	(252) 567-1247
Area 5:	Edgecombe, Martin, Nash, Pitt	Juliet Whitehurst	(919) 218-1765
Area 6:	Duplin, Wayne, Wilson	Scott Cannady	(919) 270-4910
Area 7:	Durham, Orange, Person, Wake	April Bauder	(919) 777-3251
Area 8:	Chatham, Harnett, Johnston, Lee, Moore	Jensen McLamb	(910) 638-4943
Area 9:	Bladen, Brunswick, Cumberland, New Hanover, Sampson	Chris Carter	(919) 218-8654
Area 10:	Columbus, Hoke, Richmond, Robeson, Scotland	Michelle Shooter	(910) 734-3477
Area 11:	Alamance, Caswell, Forsyth, Guilford, Randolph, Rockingham	Andrew Allen	(336) 404-5873
Area 12:	Cabarrus, Davidson, Davie, Gaston, Mecklenburg, Lincoln	Heidi Humlicek	(406) 750-6432
Area 13:	Alleghany, Iredell, Stokes, Surry, Wilkes, Yadkin	Ginger Hemmings	(336) 314-9334
Area 14:	Anson, Montgomery, Rowan, Stanly, Union	Samuel Harris	(919) 604-3896
Area 15:	Burke, Catawba, Cleveland, McDowell, Rutherford	Amanda Cook	(828) 443-1289
Area 16:	Alexander, Ashe, Caldwell, Watauga	Chad Taylor	(336) 466-0478
Area 17:	Avery, Haywood, Madison, Mitchell, Yancey	Tim Hartley	(828) 260-0588
Area 18:	Buncombe, Henderson, Polk, Transylvania	Sue Dial	(828) 577-0915
Area 19:	Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Jackson, Macon, Swain	Ryan Holquist	(828) 421-5445

Mailing Address: 1060 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC 27699-1060
Physical Address: 216 West Jones Street, Raleigh NC 27603
Phone: (919) 707-3730 | Fax: (919) 733-1041

Please visit our website at www.ncagr.gov/plantindustry for more information!