

Purple Loosestrife

Lythrum salicaria

Invasive Species in MA

Found in roadside ditches, around ponds/streams, and in wetlands.



- Unintentionally introduced in cargo ships and also intentionally, as an ornamental
- Is now illegal to sell in most states
- Has distinctive purple-pink flowers in summer, arranged in a spike atop its woody stem

What makes it invasive?

- The plant prefers many harsh conditions that native plants avoid, causing it to become established in open areas.
- It is very tolerant of full sun, changing water levels, and many other environmental factors.
- It also has no natural predators in North America and displaces entire native ecosystems.

Learn more:



Placard posted as a Girl Scout Gold Award project by Anastasia Brunker, 2024.