

WEED OF THE WEEK- PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE

Identification

An escaped ornamental, Purple Loosestrife is still commonly found in flower gardens. This plant chokes off riparian areas and lakes with the dense, mat-like roots it forms and is capable of producing over one million seeds. Purple Loosestrife prefers moist to wet soils that have high organic content that are neutral to alkaline. It can be found in marshes, along rivers, ponds and lakes.

- Flower** Flowers of this plant are purple to light pink and have a papery texture. They occur in a spike at the top of the stem and have 5-7 petals.
- Leaves** Attached directly to stem, smooth margins. Leaves are opposite, occurring up the stem of the plant.
- Stem** Square, woody, several stems per plant, up to 2.5 meters tall
- Control** This invasive plant is listed in the Alberta Weed Control Act as a Prohibited Noxious Weed. Please call Westlock County Agriculture Services at 780- 349-3346 ext. 280 for identification and recommendations.

