

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE (*Lythrum salicaria*)
Class B Noxious Weed



A hearty perennial up to 9 feet in height, topped by showy, magenta flower spikes. Flowers appear from June to early October. Highly invasive and spreads by seed, runners, and stem cuttings.

Purple loosestrife aggressively spreads in wetland and shoreline areas, crowding out native plants and reducing habitat for wildlife.

Found on lakes and waterways throughout King County including: the lakes Alice, Bellevue, Boren, Borst, Brook, Burien, Cottage, Desire, Green, Haller, Joy, Kathleen, Killarney, Moss, North, Panther, Paradise, Phantom, Retreat, Sammamish, Sikes, Spring, Totem, Twin Ponds, Union, and Washington; Portage and Union Bay; the creeks

Coal, Cottage Lake, Cross Landing, Des Moines, Ebright, Evans, Harris, Issaquah, Juanita, Kelsey, Laughing Jacobs, May, Meydenbauer, Mill, Miller, North, Ober, Patterson, Swamp, Thornton, Valley, and Walker; the Duwamish River, Green River, Mercer Slough, Sammamish River, and the Snoqualmie River; 15 stormwater/drainage ponds; and an additional 184 unspecified wetlands, road rights-of-way and other sites.

The goals for this damaging wetland weed in King County are to contain further spread, to focus our control efforts where it can be most beneficial and cost-effective, and to work cooperatively with land managers to develop long-term integrated weed management plans for the large, established infestations. In many cases, these plans include introducing and maintaining biological control agents in order to keep the infestations below the level of significant impact.



RESULTS FOR 2007

Data was gathered for 793 purple loosestrife sites in 2007. Of these, 93% of the sites and 77% of the area was controlled for the year (no seed production). Overall, 12% of all sites surveyed since 1996 are now dormant (no purple loosestrife observed for 3 or more years).

GRAPHS AND CHARTS

