

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, Borst, Brook, Burien, Cottage, Desire, Haller, Joy, Kathleen, Killarney, Moss, North, Panther, Sammamish, Sikes, Spring, and Washington; Portage and Union Bay; the creeks Cottage Lake, Cross Landing, Des Moines, Evans, Harris, Laughing

Jacobs, May, Miller, Swamp, Thornton, and Walker; the Sammamish River; 12 stormwater ponds; and an additional 291 unspecified wetlands 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 2006

Data was gathered for 783 purple loosestrife sites in 2006. Of these, 77% of the sites and 83% of the area was controlled for the year (no seed production). Overall, 8% of all sites surveyed since 1996 are now dormant (no purple loosestrife observed for 3 or more years).

GRAPHS AND CHARTS

