

**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 2008**

Data was gathered for 865 purple loosestrife sites in 2008. Of these, 86% of the sites and 62% of the area was controlled for the year (no seed production). Overall, 13% of all sites surveyed since 1996 are now dormant (no purple loosestrife observed for 3 or more years).

**Purple Loosestrife Results: 1999 to 2008**

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Number Surveyed	293	349	410	687	644	470	783	793	865
Number Controlled	214	222	242	473	538	376	586	735	743
Number Dormant (> 3 years)	9	20	27	37	43	64	92	144	166
Number New	91	85	90	137	28	57	77	43	60
Cumulative Sites	481	566	656	802	862	909	1142	1186	1246

**GRAPHS AND CHARTS**

