



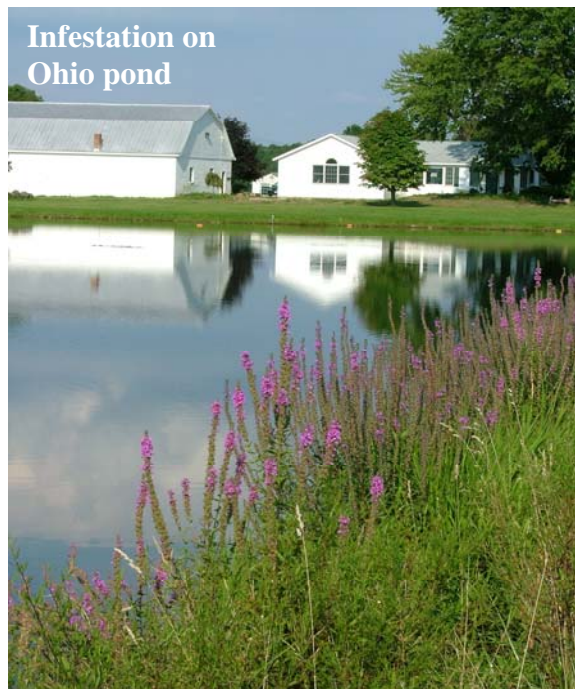
TETON COUNTY WEED AND PEST DISTRICT

Purple Loosestrife *Lithrum salicaria* L.

Purple Loosestrife is a perennial introduced from Europe. The erect, square stem can be smooth to hairy, multi-branched and 1-1/2 to 8 feet tall. The leaves are lance-shaped, entire, and are opposite or whorled. The magenta-colored flowers, which have five to seven petals, are arranged in long vertical racemes.

Purple loosestrife can be found in moist wetland sites and is a highly aggressive invasive species. Each plant can produce over 2.5 million seeds annually. If left unchecked, a wetland will eventually become a monoculture of loosestrife. This plant poses a severe threat to waterfowl habitat and can impede water flow in irrigation ditches. Sometimes purple loosestrife is confused with fireweed (*Epilobium angustifolium*) and is still sold as an ornamental by many greenhouses and gardening retailers.

Currently, there has been one infestation found in Teton County that had been planted as an ornamental. However, we do know that this weed species has been found in counties bordering our county. This invader could easily be introduced to any of the many lakes, private ponds, rivers, or through landscaping materials. Due to the severe threat that purple loosestrife poses to our waterways, fisheries and wildlife, we are asking the public to please be on the look out for this weed species. If a suspicious plant is found, please contact us immediately.



Infestation on
Ohio pond

If you find this weed on your property or around Teton County, please report it immediately at 733-8419