

European wand loosestrife

Lythrum virgatum

Description

Habit

Upright, growing up to 3-4 feet tall.

Leaves

Hairless, oppositely arranged (sometimes alternately), narrowly lance-shape to linear lance-shape with tapered bases. Leaf length: 1.2 to 5.1 inches; leaf width: .1 to 1.6 inches.

Stems

Upright and 4-angled, growing up to 3-4 feet tall.

Flowers

Showy, purple to pink in color, and grow in spikes 5-10 inches long at stem ends (terminal). Each flower spike is made up of many small flowers, each with 5-6 petals.

Fruits and Seeds

Seed capsules are cylindrical and up to 5 mm long. They open when mature in late July-August.





Habitat

Native to Europe and Asia. Found in home gardens, wetlands and other damp places that purple loosestrife can grow.

Reproduction

By seed and vegetatively from cut segments.

Similar

Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) but is smaller, hairless and smooth (glabrous) with narrower leaves and flowers are mostly paired or clustered in leafy, open flower clusters (racemes).

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Small plants and seedlings can be dug out. Larger plants can be dug out making sure to remove all root fragments. Remove all plant parts and either burn, landfill, or bury deep in the ground. Mowing is not recommended. Galerucella beetles have been successful in many parts of the state in controlling purple loosestrife populations and are likely to affect wanded loosestrife as well.

Credits

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