

PRWC STREAMWALK INVASIVE PLANTS ALERT

Common Name: Purple loosestrife

Preferred Habitat: marshes, wet meadows & riverbanks

Description and Biology:

- Plant: erect perennial herb that has a square, woody stem usually covered by downy hair; that grow from 4 to 10 feet high.
- Leaves: lance-shaped, stalk-less and rounded to heart-shaped at the base; arranged in pairs or whorls around the stem.
- Flowers, fruits and seeds: produces a showy display of magenta-colored flower spikes throughout much of the summer. Individual flowers have five to seven petals. A single mature plant can have 30 to 50 stems arising from one rootstock, and can produce an estimated two to three million seeds per year. The flowering season extends from June to September.



Common Name: Phragmites

Preferred Habitat: Wetlands and disturbed upland areas, and is common along railroad tracks, roadside ditches, and piles of dredge spoil, wherever even slight depressions hold water.

Description and Biology:

- Plant: Phragmites is a stout grass that measures 2-4 m (6.5-13 ft.) in height. It is most often seen in large colonies.
- Leaves: The gray-green leaves are long and narrow, are 25-50 cm (10-20 in.) long and are 2-3 cm (0.75-1 in.) wide
- Forms dense stands, and spreads by rhizomes or underground root system.

