

Please call 1-866-invader if you suspect you have found this species

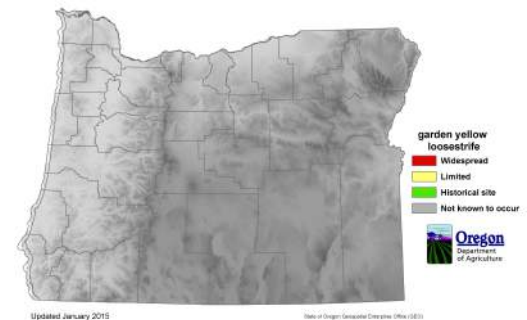
Garden loosestrife
Lysimachia vulgaris

Other common names: garden yellow
loosestrife

USDA symbol: LYVU
ODA rating: A



Introduction: Garden loosestrife is native to much of Asia, including northwestern China, much of Siberia, the Caucasus, middle Asia, and all of Europe. In North America, naturalized populations have been found in multiple states in New England and the northern mid-west, Montana, Colorado, Washington, Oregon, and in Canada (British Columbia and most eastern provinces). Garden loosestrife can be highly invasive in wet habitats like shorelines of lakes and rivers, as well as freshwater marshes, fens and wet woodlands. Its stoloniferous growth enables it to form dense stands; excluding most other vegetation.



Distribution: Awareness of the plant is new in Oregon. No surveys have been conducted to determine plant locations.

Description: Garden loosestrife is an erect rhizomatous perennial growing to 1.2 m tall, with terminal panicles of showy yellow flowers. Lanceolate to ovate leaves (7-12 cm long, 1.5-4 cm wide) are opposite to whorled, sessile (or nearly so) and dotted with very small black to orange glands (DiTomaso and Healy 2003). The stems and abaxial leaf surfaces are hairy; stems are sometimes slightly flattened. Flowers have five ovate sepals with maroon margins (figure 2); the corolla is approximately 2.5 cm in diameter with five yellow petals (8-12 mm long) and sometimes with red or orange bases.

Impacts: Garden loosestrife is an escaped ornamental plant that inhabits riparian habitats similar to purple loosestrife. When in the vegetative state, it looks similar in appearance, but lacks the square stems of purple loosestrife. Garden loosestrife can crowd out native flora. Because it is a rhizomatous plant, manual control can be difficult if root fragments are left behind. Infestations can clog waterways and increase sedimentation. Garden loosestrife spreads by rhizomes and production of seed.

Biological controls: No biocontrol agents are available. Weed populations would be targeted for eradication.

