

Plants of South Eastern New South Wales



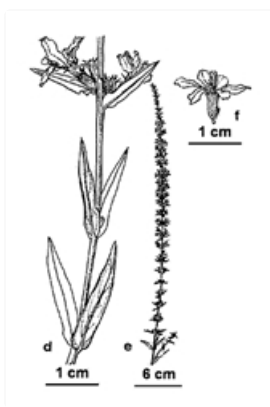
Flowering stem. Photographer Don Wood, near Candelo



Flowering stem. Photographer Don Wood, growing naturally at Australian National Botanic Gardens, Canberra, ACT



Flowering plant. Australian Plant Image Index, photographer Murray Fagg, Yarralumla, Canberra, ACT



Line drawings. d. flowering stem e. flower spike; f. flower. G. Thomlinson, National Herbarium of Victoria, © 2021 Royal Botanic Gardens Board

Common name

Purple loosestrife

Family

Lythraceae

Where found

Moist places or near water, often in swamps or slow flowing water. Widespread. A world wide species.

Notes

Perennial herb to 1.5 m high, shooting annually from the **rhizome**, hairless or hairy. Stems angular. Leaves mostly opposite each other, sometimes in **whorls** of 3, 1.5–7 cm long, 3–15 mm wide, tips pointed, base stem-clasping or rounded to **auriculate**. Flowers deep pink or bluish to purple, with 5 or 6 **petals** each 7–10 mm long. **Hypanthium** tubular, the tube 1.5–2 mm in diameter at the throat. Flowers in groups of 3–5 at the base of reduced upper leaves, forming a **spike**-like cluster. Flowering: spring–autumn.

All native plants on unleased land in the ACT are protected.

Uncertain Status (native or **naturalised**) in Vic.

PlantNET description: <http://plantnet.rbgsyd.nsw.gov.au/cgi-bin/NSWfl.pl?page=nswfl&lvl=sp&name=Lythrum~salicaria> (accessed 24 January, 2021)

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This identification key and fact sheets are available as a free mobile application:



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