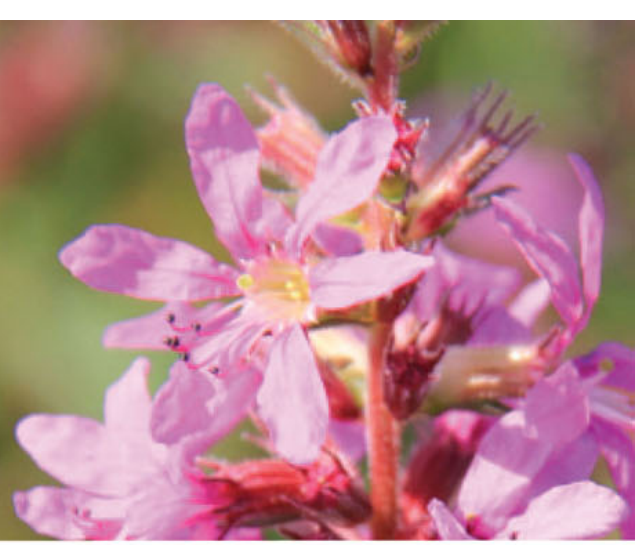




# A guide to identification and control of invasive **PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE**



## What is Purple Loosestrife?

Purple loosestrife is a wetland plant native to Europe and Asia where native insects and diseases have kept it in check. Introduced to North America in the 1800s as a garden plant, purple loosestrife has since spread to wild areas and degraded habitat for native plants and animals.

## How to Identify Purple Loosestrife



SEEDS

Photo: K. Beyer, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council



FLOWERS

Photo: K. Beyer, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council



LEAVES

Photo: Leslie J Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



STEM

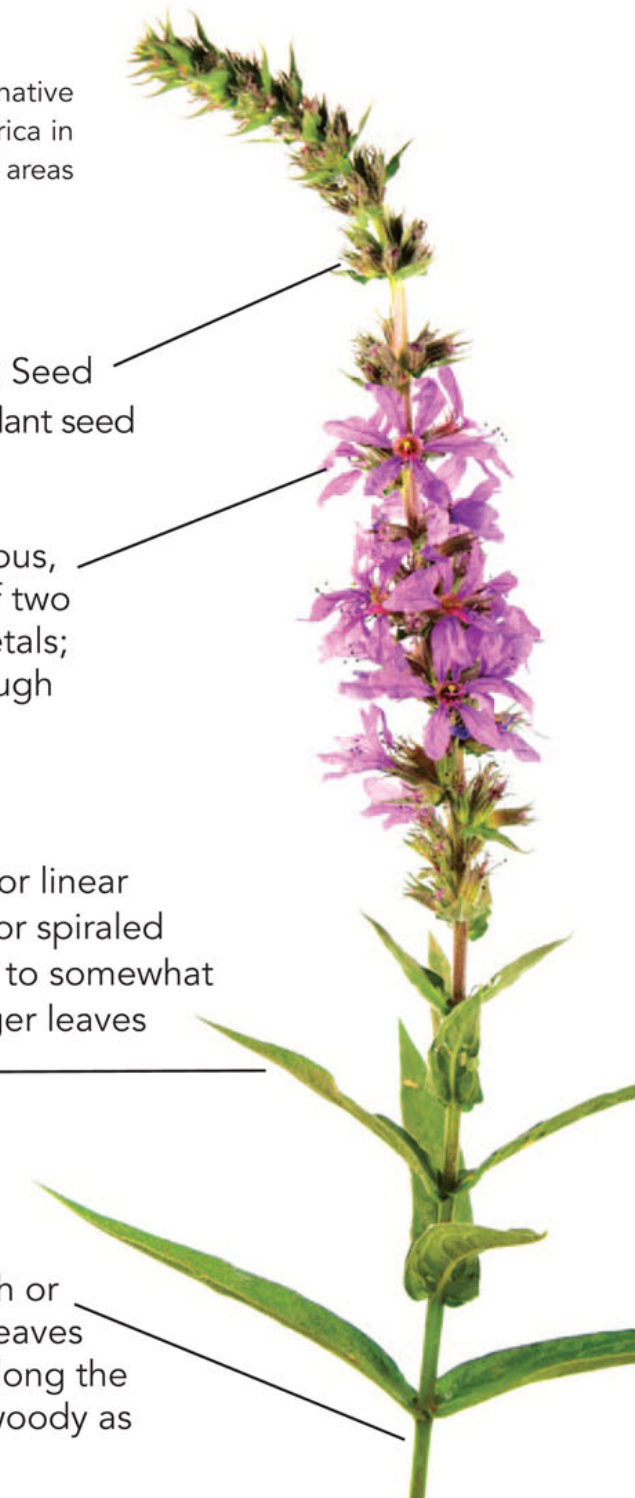
Photo: K. Beyer, Tip of the Mitt Watershed Council

**Fruit and Seeds:** Seed pod, small, abundant seed production.

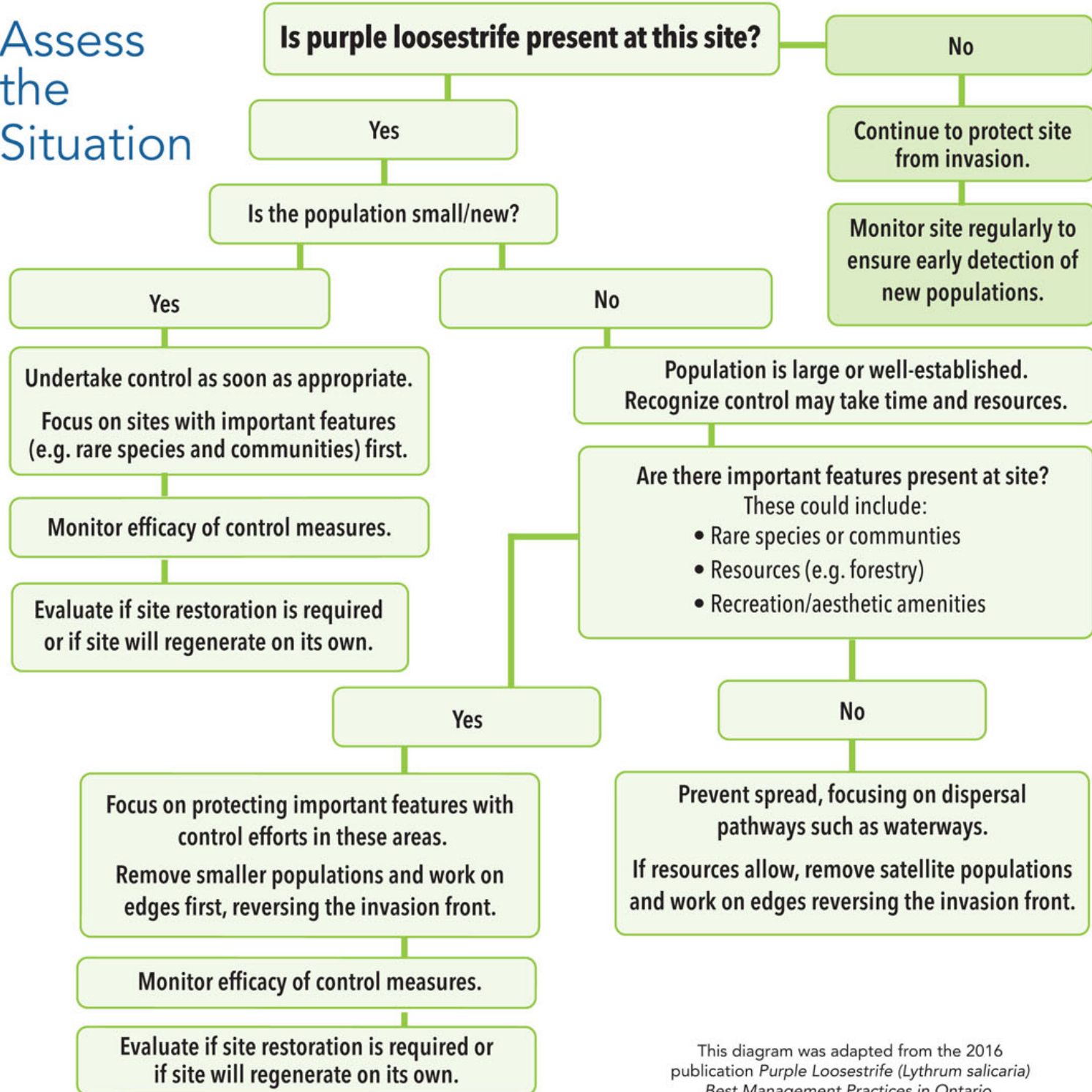
**Flowers:** Numerous, purple clusters of two to several, 5-7 petals; blooms July through September.

**Leaves:** Pointed or linear shape; opposite or spiraled around stem; flat to somewhat curved; 1-4"; larger leaves at the base.

**Stems:** Squarish, 4-6 sided, smooth or fine-haired with leaves equally spaced along the stem. Becomes woody as plant matures.



# Assess the Situation



This diagram was adapted from the 2016 publication *Purple Loosestrife (Lythrum salicaria) Best Management Practices in Ontario*.

## Develop a long-term plan

**Planning ahead allows you to evaluate the success of your efforts. Follow these steps to make the most of your management efforts.**

- 1. Focus** your efforts on preventing spread by controlling isolated plants and small populations outside the primary infestation site.
- 2. Concentrate** on high-priority areas (most productive or sensitive part of an ecosystem, such as high-quality wetlands and undeveloped lakeshores).
- 3. Dedicate** a certain time of each year to control efforts, and coordinate with your neighbors and other groups to set and meet your management goals.
- 4. Replant** native plants once purple loosestrife infestation is reduced or eradicated. Minimizing the area of bare soil will help prevent any other invasive species from taking over.
- 5. Follow Up** by removing seedlings that may sprout after initial control efforts.