Purple loosestrife
Alias: Lythrum salicaria

Purple loosestrife is an attractive, rhizomatous perennial from Europe. This showy plant has escaped from gardens and now forms dense monocultures along and in streams, canals, ditches, and wetlands. It impedes water flow, crowds out native vegetation, and destroys wildlife habitat.

Do not be tempted by this popular ornamental. Nurseries in Nevada have been asked not to sell this plant.

Do not share this plant with your gardening friends; instead, destroy any you are growing.

Distinguishing features:
◆ Grows 1½ to 8 feet tall.
◆ Stems are 4-sided, smooth or hairy, and multibranched.
◆ Leaves are 4 inches long or less, lance-shaped, pointed, and whorled at the nodes.
◆ Flowers are 1 inch in diameter, magenta-colored, and have five to seven wrinkled petals that look crushed. They are arranged in long clusters (racemes) at the ends of the branched stalks and form a crown of spikes in mid-summer.

Take action!
◆ Report its location to the land owner, gardener, manager or park ranger.
◆ Avoid walking on, driving on, or camping in purple loosestrife-infested areas.
◆ Monitor ornamental plantings, stream banks, and wetlands. Carefully remove any seeds and dig up the plant. Dispose of the seeds, shoots, and roots in a sealed garbage bag through the trash. Herbicides may also be available to kill this plant.
◆ Early action is imperative. It saves money, time, and effort, and protects the environment.

Your reward:
A cleaner, healthier environment and the satisfaction that you have helped make the difference!

For more information about controlling this and other invasive weeds, contact:
Nevada Cooperative Extension
775-784-1334; Nevada Division of Agriculture Bureau of Plant Industry, 775-688-1180; or Your local Weed District manager or Conservation District: