

# VOLUNTEER SCIENTISTS WANTED!

## PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE BIOCONTROL PROJECT

### What is Purple Loosestrife?



Purple loosestrife is a wetland plant native to Europe and Asia that was introduced to North America in the late 1800s. The flower was originally used as an ornamental due to its bright purple flowers. Purple loosestrife is now listed as a prohibited invasive species in Minnesota and a restricted invasive species in Wisconsin.

### Why Do We Care?



Once established, purple loosestrife drastically outcompetes North America's native wetland plants and causes decreases in biodiversity and native habitats. The uncontrolled presence of purple loosestrife threatens the future of Minnesota and Wisconsin's natural wetlands, streams, rivers, lakes, and shorelines.



### Meet the Galerucella Beetle!



Galerucella is a genus of beetle native to Eurasia that is known to consume only purple loosestrife by feeding on the leaves and shoots of the invasive species. Because the Galerucella beetle does not cause any threat to native plants in North America, it is used as a biocontrol to decrease the density and seed output of purple loosestrife.

### Where Do You Come In?



We are looking for volunteers to raise Galerucella beetles to use as biocontrol for purple loosestrife! With your help, we can decrease the negative impact of purple loosestrife in the St. Croix watershed.



### What Will Raising Galerucella Beetles Look Like?

Raising Galerucella beetles requires little effort for a lot of reward. You will be provided beetle-rearing kits, consisting of:

- Purple loosestrife plants
- Galerucella beetles
- pots
- plastic kiddie pool
- clothesline
- bungee cords
- netting
- instruction manual

The main tasks expected of volunteers are to maintain and observe the plants and beetles. By midsummer, the beetles will have increased to up to 1,000 beetles per plant. In late July-August, all beetles will be released to do what they do best, consume purple loosestrife!



**FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT:**  
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