

BEETLE PARENTS WANTED!

PURPLE LOOSESTRIFE BIOCONTROL PROJECT

What is Purple Loosestrife?



Purple loosestrife is a wetland plant native to Europe and Asia that is listed as an MDA Prohibited Noxious Weed and is considered a prohibited invasive species in Minnesota.

Why Do We Care?



Purple loosestrife drastically outcompetes Minnesota's native wetland plants and causes decreases in biodiversity, threatening the future of Minnesota'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. These beetles are 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!

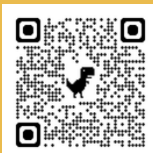


What Will Raising Galerucella Beetles Look Like?

Volunteers will be provided purple loosestrife biocontrol kits, consisting of:

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

Volunteers will be expected to maintain and observe the plants and beetles. By midsummer, the beetles will have increased to up to 1,000 beetles per plant and will be ready to be released!



Learn More

For more information and to apply, check out the project webpage: wildriversconservancy.org/get-involved/biocontrolproject/