

Purple Loosestrife Biological Control

Helping Native Plants Battle Invasive Species



Golden Sands
Resource Conservation
& Development Council, Inc.

February to March



Plan

Meet with local partners to gauge interest

Locate and solidify needed permission for root digging, beetle collection, and release area work sites

Submit DNR permit authorization application

Contact potential volunteers, explain process, and confirm intention to help dig and/or raise beetles

April



Spring Dig

Collect purple loosestrife roots and shoots in April

Place potted plants in a pool filled with water

Keep water two inches below the top of the soil so to not drown larvae

Cover with nets to keep predators out

Mid-May



Add Beetles

Collect beetles from the wild in mid-May

Collect 8-10 beetles for every potted plant

Place beetles on plant inside the net

By mid-summer, the beetles will have reproduced into as many as 1,000 beetles per plant!

May to June



Watch and Maintain

Keep pools filled with water

Make sure beetles do not eat their entire food source

Once the food source is almost gone, the plant can be moved to an existing stand, and nets can be removed

Late June to Early July



Release

Release beetles into a stand of purple loosestrife when their food source is low, usually late June to early July

The beetles can then go to work on controlling the existing stand!

After releasing, fill out and return the DNR insect release form to the state

Throughout the summer



Biological Control

By eating the plant, the beetles stress the plant so it does not flower

This helps native plants take back the wetland, as every year, each purple loosestrife plant produces over 1 million seeds from pollinated flowers

Remember to collect the plant pots for rearing next year!

Forms and addresses can be found online at <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/Invasives/loosestrife.html>



Chris Hamerla



Paul Skawinski



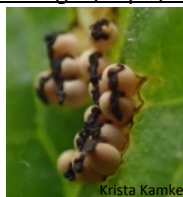
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To learn more, find and contact your local Aquatic Invasive Species Coordinator at <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/invasives/topics.aspx>