

# Yellow Loosestrife

*Lysimachia punctata*

## About Yellow Loosestrife

Yellow loosestrife is fast growing herbaceous perennial native to central/southern Europe and Turkey. It is in the Primulaceae family and has been grown as a garden ornamental plant since Victorian times. It is a garden escapee in North America and become widely naturalized in Canada. It is vigorous that is difficult to control if it escapes cultivation. Also commonly referred to as spotted or dotted loosestrife.

## Legal Status

No legal status currently in BC.

## Distribution

Found on sites around the lower mainland around the Coast-Cascade Mountains.

## Identification

**Flowers:** Bright yellow starry flowers, five-point petals, grows in a medium sized flower head, blooms early to mid-summer.

**Stem:** Sturdy and hairy, simple or branched below and dotted with reddish or blackish spots, growing 60-150cm tall.

**Leaves:** Forms a bushy, fast growing clump of leaves in whorls of 3 or 4. Leaves are light green, serrated, 3-10cm long and have pointed tips.

**Fruits:** Capsules, breaking into valves at dispersal which only occasionally produce a few seeds.

**Similar Species:** Garden Loosestrife (*Lysimachia vulgaris*) - The main differences between the two is that the calyx of *L. punctata* lacks the red margin and its florescence tends to be denser.

## Ecological Characteristics

**Habitat:** Prefers moist, humusy and well-drained soils and grows best in full sun or partial shade. Naturalized in rough grassland and on woodland edges, wet ditches/roadsides, waste ground, wetlands and shorelines.

**Reproduction:** Capable of forming large colonies by seed and rhizomatous spread.

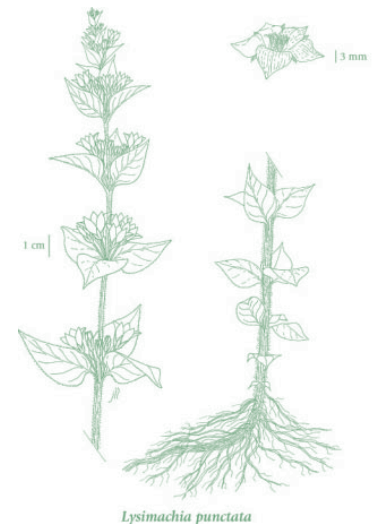
**Dispersal:** Spreads aggressively by tubers and rhizomes and by self-seeding.

## Impacts

**Economic:** Large stands of yellow loosestrife can block water flow in canals and ditches that are used for agriculture resulting in losses of productivity in some agricultural crops, the degradation of farm land and reduce the forage value of pastures.

**Ecological:** Forms dense stands with thick mats of roots that can spread over large areas, crowding out native plants reducing biodiversity and degrades habitats for waterfowl, wildlife, birds and fish, including several salmon species.

**Social:** Contact may cause skin irritation or an allergic reaction.


*Lysimachia punctata*

© The Illustrated Flora of BC



Kylemore Abbey Garden, Ireland

## Best Management Practices

### Prevention

- » Most easily eradicated when plants are young.
- » Cleaning clothing, gear, equipment, and pets fur before moving to another location can help limit spread.
- » Don't plant invasive species in gardens, instead refer to the Grow Me Instead program to find native alternatives.

### Biological Control

There is no biocontrol for Yellow Loosestrife in Canada.

### Mechanical Control

- » Cutting or mowing garden loosestrife is only partly effective. These methods can prevent seed production, but plants will resprout and usually bloom again the same season.
- » Hand pulling or digging of rosettes and immature plants is feasible. Carefully dig out as much root and rhizome as possible as this plant doesn't pull well.
- » Mature plants must be removed below the crown to prevent regrowth. Removal may be impractical to impossible when trying to remove hardy, woody roots or extensive rhizome networks in compacted soils.
- » Areas must be monitored carefully for several years for signs of plants growing from rhizomes and from the seed bank.

### Chemical Control

Herbicide recommendations and use must consider site characteristics and be prescribed based on site goals and objectives. Herbicide labels and other sources of information must be reviewed before selecting and applying herbicides.

- » The use of herbicides is often prohibited near water bodies or in wet areas where Yellow Loosestrife likes to grow.
- » Aminocyclopyrachlor and Chlorsulfuron are recommended for young actively growing plants. It should be applied to the foliage. This can be used in conjunction with some other herbicide treatments.
- » Aminopyralid is recommended for plants just before the bud stage or during early flowering. Plants should be sprayed uniformly, no more than once per season.
- » Imazapyr is recommended for young actively growing plants, however this herbicide is non-selective and will kill most plants it comes into contact with (not just Yellow Loosestrife). It will also help to control new seedlings for a time after it is applied. This herbicide cannot be used in areas where crops may be grown in the future.

- » Glyphosate is recommended for young and actively growing plants. It is non-selective and will kill most if not all plants it comes into contact with (not just Yellow Loosestrife). Spray it directly on the leaves of the plant, and it will be translocated throughout the plant. Plants will not absorb it through the soil. It can be applied closer to water bodies than most other herbicides.

- » Resistant to hexazine, susceptible to tribenuron methyl

Application of pesticides on Crown land must be carried out following a confirmed Pest Management Plan (Integrated Pest Management Act) and under the supervision of a certified pesticide applicator. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/pesticides-pest-management>

### Disposal

**Note: Disposal of invasive plants varies by regions within BC. If you would like specific information on how to dispose of your invasive plants, please contact your local government/regional district.**

- » Chemically treated material can be left on site to compost.
- » Bag all manually removed seed heads, plant parts and roots and be careful to avoid dispersing any vegetative rhizomes or seeds.
- » Dispose of materials at a transfer station for disposal. This will ensure the plant matter is properly transported and disposed of at the landfill. All cut plant parts should undergo deep burial (at least 5 m deep) at a landfill.
- » Do not compost or put in yard waste.

## References/Links

- » <https://www.nwcb.wa.gov/weeds/garden-loosestrife>
- » <https://pnwhandbooks.org/weed/problem-weeds/loosestrife-garden-lysimachia-vulgaris>
- » Klinkenberg, Brian. (Editor) 2017. E-Flora BC: Electronic Atlas of the Plants of British Columbia [eflora.bc.ca]. Lab for Advanced Spatial Analysis, Department of Geography, University of British Columbia, Vancouver. Accessed: 01/04/2019
- » <https://www.gardenia.net/plant/lysimachia-punctata-yellow-loosestrife>
- » [https://cdn.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/images/sites/wild-blueberry/pdfs/Yellow\\_Loosestrife.pdf](https://cdn.dal.ca/content/dam/dalhousie/images/sites/wild-blueberry/pdfs/Yellow_Loosestrife.pdf)
- » *Lysimachia punctata* L. large yellow loosestrife. United States Department of Agriculture <https://plants.usda.gov/core/profile?symbol=LYP2>

