

# Purple Loosestrife

## *Lythrum salicaria*



Adult *Galerucella calmariensis*, one of two leaf-eating beetles that have been successfully used as biocontrol on known purple loosestrife infestations in Minnesota.

Bernd Blossey, Cornell University, Bugwood.org

**Keys to ID:** Leaves are lance shaped with smooth edges and arranged opposite on a four-sided stalk, alternate on a five-sided stalk, or whorls of three leaves on a five-sided stalk. Individual flowers have five or six pink-purple petals surrounding small, yellow centers. Each flower spike is made up of many individual flowers.