



Lowbush Blueberry Fact Sheet

Yellow Loosestrife

Lysimachia terrestris (L.) B.S.P

Other names: Swamp loosestrife, swamp candles

Description

Yellow loosestrife is a tall, erect, smooth-stemmed perennial which can grow up to 75 cm in height. It is sparsely branched, with opposite and narrowly lance-shaped leaves, 3-10 cm long. The leaves have smooth margins and pointed tips. The flower stalk is terminal with long-stalked, star-shaped yellow flowers which have 5 pointed, 5-7mm long petals, with brown-orange dots or streaks. Some flowers also form in the axils of the leaves, near the top of the plant. The flowers develop from the base toward the tip of the plant, beginning in July.



Economic Importance

Yellow loosestrife is found in most lowbush blueberry growing areas in North-eastern North America. It is one of the quickest spreading weeds in blueberry fields and should be carefully monitored, particularly in wetter areas of the fields. It is a common plant found in bogs, ditches and wet areas and it can invade lowbush blueberry fields from these sites. Dense stands can compete with blueberry plants for light as well as other resources such as nutrients.

Life Cycle

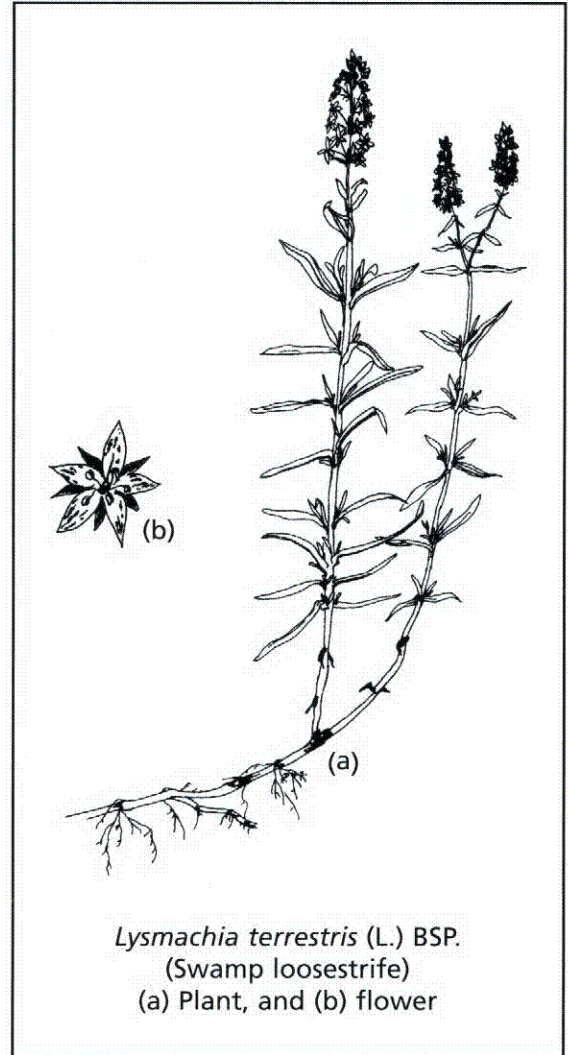
Yellow loosestrife is a perennial plant that may spread by seed or by underground rhizomes. New shoots emerge from the rhizomes in early spring, forming dense stands. Plants begin to flower in mid-July and continue until September.





Control Strategy

Because this weed can be invasive in lowbush blueberries, careful monitoring should be done to identify the weed as soon as possible. Careful attention should be paid to the edges of fields, especially along roadside ditches. In addition, low, wet areas of the fields should also be monitored. The perennial rhizome makes this species difficult to eradicate. Mowing will encourage new growth from the rhizome system. This weed is resistant to hexazinone (Velpar™/Pronone™). It is, however, susceptible to tribenuron methyl (Spartan™). Improving drainage in wetter areas of the field can help prevent invasion by this weed. For further information consult the Weed Control Guide for Lowbush Blueberries.



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