How to Identify Purple Loosestrife in Bloom

*(Lythrum salicaria)*

**Seed pods:**
- Oval to round golden-brown capsules about ½ to 3/4” long, with pointed teeth
- Golden-brown seeds, the size of a grain of sand

**Flowers:**
- Peak bloom season late June to mid-July, but can be found in bloom as late as September
- Many bright purple-pink flowers in a long stalk at the top of the plant
- Six petals (may be 5 to 7), about 1” wide and ½” long
- Yellow flower centers
- Usually twice as many stamens as petals

**Size:**
- Can be anywhere from 4 to 8 feet tall at bloom time

**Habit:**
- Tall, erect perennial herb, very branched at the top of the stalk, with multiple densely flowered bloom spikes

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How to Identify Purple Loosestrife Not in Bloom

Stems:
• Square, sometimes 5-angled, downy or fuzzy
• If you roll the stem between your fingers, you can feel the edges

Leaves:
• Long, narrow with pointed tips, smooth edges and heart-shaped bases
• Joined directly to the plant stems, no leaf stalks
• Opposite, two across the stem from each other at each node; occasionally whorled, in groups of three at the same node
• Usually covered with soft, downy hairs, especially on the underside

Habitat:
• Areas of fresh to brackish water in moist or saturated soils; wet meadows, ditches, streambanks, marshes, floodplains in part to full sun