

species in Victoria preventing the chances for crossing and the spread of hybrid material in the way that seems to have happened between *O. acanthium* and *O. illyricum* genetic material in central New South Wales (P. O'Hanlon, pers. comm.)? On the basis of such reasoning, is Taurian thistle best regarded as a 'sleeping' weed until it spreads to co-occur with either *O. acanthium* or *O. illyricum* populations in Victoria?

Finally, would a slightly enhanced search-and-control effort in both western and northeastern Victoria result in the eradication of Taurian thistle from Victoria and hence, from Australia? We recommend that eradication of the 49 plants known to be present at two sites in Victoria be actively pursued. Such an eradication program, followed by a monitoring period of 5–10 years, has the potential to remove the threat of Taurian thistle as a weed of southern Australian pasture lands.

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Purple loosestrife eradication in Alberta

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Summary Purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) is a herbaceous wetland perennial that was introduced to North America from Europe in the early 1800s. The infestation of this plant has been expanding at the expense of native wetlands. It invades wetland areas, competes with and replaces desirable native vegetation. Wildlife that depends on the native plants for food and shelter is forced to move to new areas.

In Canada, purple loosestrife is well established in the Maritime Provinces, Quebec and Southern Ontario. Pioneer communities are appearing in the Prairie

Provinces and in British Columbia. The first infestation of purple loosestrife in Alberta was reported in 1990. A program to eradicate all infestations and to prevent the establishment of purple loosestrife in Alberta began in 1991. By 1997, a total of 80 infestations were recorded and eradication measures were taken at each site and 17 of those sites have been eradicated. In 2000, there were a cumulative total of 188 sites and 123 have been eradicated.

Keywords Purple loosestrife, *Lythrum salicaria*.