Lythrum salicaria

Purple loosestrife

Photo: Paul Champion, NIWA
http://www.issg.org/database/image.asp?ii=401&ic=e

General

1. Perennial forb growing to 1.2– 3m (depending on conditions)
2. Essentially globally invasive outside of its native range

Geography and Habitat

1. Native: Throughout Eurasia, North Africa
    - Wetlands, freshwater wet meadows, tidal and non-tidal marshes, riparian zones, ditches
    - Tolerant of shallow flooding, nutrient poor sites, and up to 50% shade

Invasion Pathways

1. Unintentional by release of ballast
2. Possibly introduced as an ornamental

Sources

1. http://nas.er.usgs.gov/queries/FactSheet.aspx?SpeciesID=239
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4. http://nrs.fs.fed.us/data/il/ilpin/spp/?spp=1843
5. http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=LYSA2