

-State Species Abstract-  
-Wyoming Natural Diversity Database-

*LYTHRUM ALATUM* VAR. *ALATUM*  
WINGED LOOSESTRIFE  
Family: Lythraceae

Status:

US Fish & Wildlife Service: None.  
Agency Status: None.

Heritage Rank:

Global: G5 State: S1  
WYNDD Plant List: Peripheral  
Medium Wyoming Significance

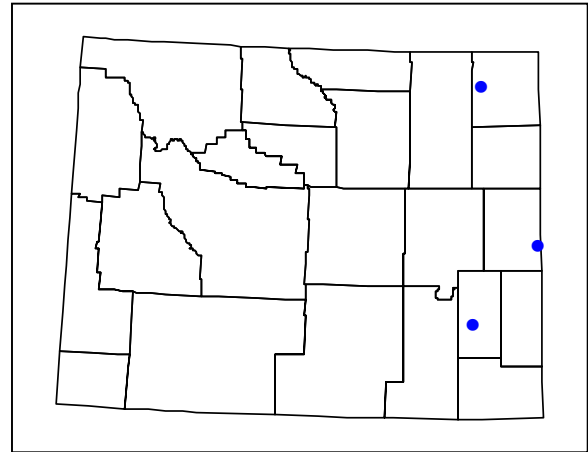
Description: Winged loosestrife is a perennial herb 4-8 dm tall, with glabrous, 4-angled stems. Leaves are thick and firm, the lower ones opposite and up to 4 cm long, the upper ones alternate and up to 2 (rarely 3) cm long. Flowers are solitary in the leaf axils, each with 6 sepals, with 6 elongate appendages between the sepals. The 6 petals are purple, 2-6 mm long, and mounted at the top of a floral cup (hypanthium), and 6 stamens are inserted at the base. The fruit is a papery capsule (Great Plains Flora Association 1986, Gleason and Cronquist 1993).

Similar Species: *Lythrum salicaria* has flowers crowded in terminal spike-like panicles, each flower with 12 stamens and petals that are 7-12 mm long (Great Plains Flora Association 1986, Dorn 2001).

Flowering/Fruiting Period:  
June - September.

Distribution: New England west to Wyoming and Colorado, south to Kansas and Oklahoma (Great Plains Flora Association 1986). In Wyoming, it is known from the Western High Plains including Crook, Niobrara and Platte counties.

Habitat: Wet soils, ditches, roadsides, pastures, and floodplains (Great Plains Flora Association 1986). Wyoming populations are found at the edge of cattail swamps, riparian corridors and gravelly dry washes at 4600-4840 feet.



Wyoming distribution of *Lythrum alatum*

Occurrences in Wyoming: Known from at least 1 extant and 2 historical occurrences in Wyoming. It was most recently documented in Niobrara County (1999) and was historically known from Crook and Platte counties.

Abundance: Not known.

Trends: Not known.

Protection status: The extant occurrence is on state lands managed for multiple use.

Threats: Its wet, low elevation habitat is readily invaded by noxious weeds.

Managed Areas: Occurs on lands managed by the state of Wyoming.

References:

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Hitchcock, C.L. and A. Cronquist. 1961. Vol. 3. Saxifragaceae to Ericaceae. In: C.L. Hitchcock, A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, and J.W. Thomas. Vascular Plants of the Pacific

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