



Purple Loosestrife Look-alikes

Examples of commonly confused wetland plant species

Fireweed (*Chamaenerion angustifolium*)



- This plant also has a large spike of purple flowers similar to purple loosestrife
- Fireweed is most commonly found in the Northern half of the state along woodland edges and shorelines
- The flowers on the spike are much widely arranged, and less cylindrical



- Fireweed has alternate leaves - purple loosestrife is opposite and whorl around the stem
- The round stem is a large giveaway - not square and rough like purple loosestrife

Blue Vervain (*Verbena hastata*)



- This plant also has narrow spikes of purple flowers similar to purple loosestrife
- Blue Vervain is found across the entire state along shorelines and wet habitats
- The flowers on the spike are typically much smaller in size and length



- Blue Vervain has opposite leaves, but are very coarsely toothed unlike purple loosestrife
- The stem is square and ribbed – be careful not to confuse with purple loosestrife, the leaves are the best indicators

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