Dame's Rocket or Purple Loosestrife?

Many of the suspected **Purple Loosestrife** sites that were reported to the Regional District of North Okanagan were actually **Dame's Rocket** infestations, most notably along Swan Lake. Because of its invasive nature, as much care must be taken with Dame's Rocket as with Purple Loosestrife.

Dame's Rocket *(Hesperis matronalis)* is an invasive plant that is spreading rapidly throughout the North Okanagan. It chokes out natural vegetation and harbours dangerous plant diseases.

Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria)* is an invasive plant found in shallow wetlands where it aggressively degrades and crowds out the natural vegetation required by wildlife.

Compare these key characteristics:

Dame's Rocket

blooms from

MAY | JUNE | JULY | AUG

Learn more :

BC's Invasive Plant Program
www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/plants
Invasive Species Council of BC
www.bcinvasives.ca

Bloom Time

Dame's Rocket blooms from late May to early July, while Purple Loosestrife flowers in late July through August.

Flowers

Dame's Rocket has **4 petals per flower**, with unopened flowers at the top. Flowers may also be pink or white.

Purple Loosestrife flowers are pink to purple, with **5 to 7 petals** in dense clusters.

Stem

Purple Loosestrife has stiff 4-sided (**square**) stems that end in spikes of purple flowers.

Dame's Rocket stems & leaves are covered with fine hairs.

Leaves

Dame's Rocket has hairy leaves with finely toothed edges that alternate on the stem.

Purple Loosestrife has long, linear leaves with smooth edges that attach directly to the stem on opposite sides.

For more information, contact:
Regional District of North Okanagan
250.550.3700 www.rdno.ca/weeds

Purple Loosestrife

blooms from

MAY | JUNE | JULY | AUG

A single plant can produce more than 300,000 seeds, usually distributed via water