

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Decodon verticillatus

Whorled Loosestrife



Sometimes classified as a shrub, sometimes as an herb. Stems are woody, but die back each winter. Grows along the water's edge, and is a significant "shoreline builder." Stems are 3'-9' long, arching downward, rooting at the tips where they come in contact with water or mud. Whorled loosestrife is a good butterfly plant, and provides food and cover for waterfowl. Also called swamp loosestrife, or willow herb. Note that this is not the exotic invasive plant purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*).

Suggested companions: buttonbush (*Cephalanthus occidentalis*), any of the willows (*Salix*).

Photo Credit: Wisconsin State Herbarium,
by Emmet J. Judziewicz

Plant Type: Shrub

Size: 3'-10' H
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Water Tolerant: Very

Habitat:

Open Shallow Water
Lake and Pond Shores
Marshes & Bogs

Soil: Very Damp/Wet
Rich Moist
Average Garden Soil

Exposure: sun

Flower Color:
Purple

Plant in:

Groundcover: No

Bloom Time:
July
August
September

Other Attributes:

Butterfly attracting
Bird attracting
Wildlife attracting