

## **A Design for a Release and Monitoring Programme of Biological control Agents on Purple Loosestrife, *Lythrum salicaria*, in North America**

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Classical biological control of weeds programs emphasize pre-release studies to assure that candidate agents are host-specific and pathogen-free, whereas relatively little effort is devoted to designing the release program and the post-release monitoring. We propose a release and monitoring program for 3 biological control agents (*Galerucella californiensis*, *G. pusilla* and *Hylobius transversovittatus*) on purple loosestrife, *Lythrum salicaria*, in North America. Replication of release site conditions and consistency of pre-and post-release measurements throughout the release area are stressed. The program is designed in stages: 1. establishment of both practical and scientific objectives; 2. determination of potentially influential biotic and abiotic factors; 3. pre-release site characterization by influential factors and random site selection; 4. pre-release measurements, and 5. post-release monitoring of distribution and abundance of organisms as well as of those variables measured prior to release. This approach offers a major increase in insight at a modest increase in cost.

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