

# Lysimachia vulgaris

## COMMON NAME

Yellow loosestrife

## FAMILY

Primulaceae

## AUTHORITY

*Lysimachia vulgaris* L.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Herbs - Dicotyledons other than Composites

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION

Tall (up to 1 m) plant with paired (or 3 or 4's) willow-like leaves up the more-or-less upright stems, groups of 10 or more yellow flowers, 1.5 cm across.

## DISTRIBUTION

Scattered distribution, two sites in the Waikato and scattered sites in southern Westland.

## HABITAT

Wet grassland and the margins of water bodies.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Summertime herb; stems erect, ± minutely glandular-hairy, to c. 1 m tall, arising from underground rhizomes. Lvs opposite, shortly petiolate to sessile. Lamina 4-11 × 1.5-4 cm, lanceolate to ovate or elliptic, glabrous above, minutely glandular-hairy beneath and dotted with black glands, entire; base cuneate to rounded; apex acute. Panicle terminal, many-flowered, glandular-puberulent, with leaflike bracts subtending lower branches; upper bracts subulate to lanceolate. Pedicels often > fls. Calyx 4-5 mm long; lobes lanceolate, acuminate, rounded at base, glandular-ciliate and dark-margined. Corolla limb c. 2 cm diam., yellow, often with pinkish flush towards base, dotted with minute glands; lobes 7-10 mm long, ± elliptic-oblong. Stamens 3-5 mm long; filaments united to c. 1/3 length, densely glandular-scaly. Style > stamens, glabrous. Capsule 3-4.5 mm diam., ± globose. Seed broad-ellipsoid, flattened with thick rounded margin.

## SIMILAR TAXA

Non-flowering plants are similar to purple loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) but in yellow loosestrife the upper surface and edges of the leaves are dotted with black or orange glands.

## FLOWERING

December to April

## FLOWER COLOURS

Yellow

## FRUITING

Autumn



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**LIFE CYCLE**

Seed spread by water movement, deliberate planting or garden discards

**YEAR NATURALISED**

1940

**ORIGIN**

Europe, temperate Asia

**REASON FOR INTRODUCTION**

Ornamental plant

**CONTROL TECHNIQUES**

Not controlled in New Zealand.

**ATTRIBUTION**

Factsheet prepared by Paul Champion and Deborah Hofstra (NIWA). Features description from Webb et al. (1988).

**REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING**

Webb, C.J.; Sykes, W.R.; Garnock-Jones, P.J. (1988). Flora of New Zealand Volume 4: Naturalised pteridophytes, gymnosperms, dicotyledons. Botany Division, DSIR, Christchurch.

Clapham, A.R.; Tutin, T.G.; Warburg, E.F. (1962). Flora of the British Isles. Cambridge University Press, Second Edition. 1269pp.

**MORE INFORMATION**

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/lysimachia-vulgaris/>