

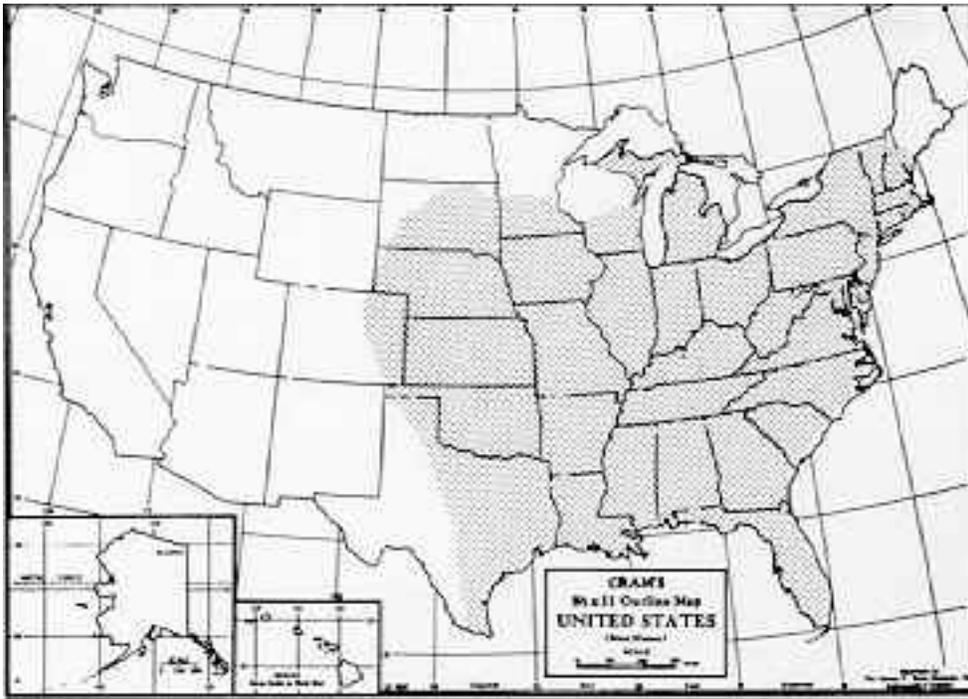


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Northern Prairie Wildlife Research Center

Winged Lythrum (*Lythrum alatum*)





- **Family:** Loosestrife (Lythraceae)
- **Flowering:** June-September.
- **Field Marks:** Purple flowers with usually 6 free petals, a 4-angled stem, and leaves alternate, opposite, or even whorled distinguish this species from all others.
- **Habitat:** Margins of streams, wet meadows, ponds and ditches, wet prairies, marshes, damp areas in rocky glades.
- **Habit:** Herbaceous perennials from tufted roots.
- **Stems:** 1-several, erect, stiffly branching, smooth, 4-angled, up to 3 1/2 feet tall.
- **Leaves:** Upper usually alternate, lower usually opposite or even whorled, simple, linear to broadly lanceolate, pointed at the tip, more or less rounded at the base, the largest up to 2 inches long, without teeth, smooth.
- **Flowers:** Solitary in the axils of the upper leaves, purple, with very short stalks.
- **Sepals:** Usually 6, green, united below to form a tube as long as or longer than the petals.
- **Petals:** Usually 6, purple, free from each other, up to 1/4 inch long.
- **Stamens:** Usually 6, sometimes protruding above the petals, sometimes not.
- **Pistils:** Ovary superior.
- **Fruits:** Capsules somewhat longer than broad, with numerous minute seeds.

- **Notes:** The seeds may be eaten by waterfowl.



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Page Last Modified: August 3, 2006



