

Purple Loosestrife Beetle Handling and Release Guidelines

Thank you for requesting *Galerucella* beetles to help control purple loosestrife on Lake Leelanau.

✓ Handling:

- Once the beetles are picked up, they should be released the same day to make sure that they are not trapped under the nets in a harsh environment.
- Transport your pots with the nets on!
- Avoid jarring the pots and high temperatures. If carrying in a pickup or trailered boat, lay them down to prevent wind damage.

✓ Location:

- Release the pots where access and footing are safe.
- It is recommended to place 3-4 potted plants infested with beetles for every 1/4 acre of heavy purple loosestrife coverage.
- Where there are 50 or more plants, you want to cluster 2-3 pots of beetles in large patches. If the area covers several acres, you will want to find multiple locations to cluster pots. The adults will fly to new plants as needed.
- If you are releasing along shorelines, choose areas with several plants close and others nearby. Use your best judgment for the number of pots per location.

✓ Release:

- Uncover your plant next to a free-growing plant and as much as possible, entwine the branches of the two plants. This is vital, if there are still larvae that could be hiding on leaves or in the soil, so they can crawl over to fresh leaves.
- You should plan to mark where you leave the pots if the area is large and retrieve them later in the summer so that they don't blow away. This is especially important for pots that still have larvae or pupates. The photos will complete that step.

✓ Communicate:

- Send an email to TIS@lakeleelanau.org describing where the pots were placed.
- During visits to retrieve pots note the plant conditions you find. Is there significant damage to the plants from the beetles? Are they discolored, do they appear to be dying or dead? Note that it's unlikely they are completely dead because the root crowns of purple loosestrife contain a tremendous amount of energy, but the stress to the plants will make an impact over time. If flowers have formed, cut off the flower head before it goes to seed and dispose of it in the garbage. We encourage you to send an email to TIS@lakeleelanau.org to report your findings so we can track the effectiveness of the beetles.