

Butterfly bush

Buddleja davidii

Loganiaceae Family

Key identifying traits

- ❑ Large, deciduous shrub, growing up to 10' tall
- ❑ Opposite, lance-shaped, 3-4" dark green leaves appear white or silvery underneath due to a covering of fine hairs
- ❑ Flowers are usually a shade of purple, but may be red, pink, blue, orange, yellow or white
- ❑ The fragrant, small, funnel-shaped flowers are borne in showy spikes at the ends of stems, looking and smelling very much like lilacs



"seedling" and backside of leaves

Biology and ecology

- Perennial shrub, reproducing mainly from seed, but will re-sprout from root stock when cut
- May produce up to 3 million seeds per plant
- This plant is a native to China and is a popular ornamental plant here
- Butterfly bush has escaped ornamental plantings and invaded roadsides, riparian areas & pastures



Control

Prevention - Learn to identify plants; do not allow ornamentals to escape; if you grow it in your yard, cut the spent flowers off and dispose to prevent spread of seed by birds, wind, water; choose alternate ornamental shrubs to plant

Biological - A weevil and a stem-boring beetle are currently being tested in New Zealand

Cultural - Healthy, competitive vegetation will help discourage domination, but will not stop it from getting started

Mechanical - Cutting will cause it to re-sprout; digging and pulling may cause more site disturbance, allowing more seeds to sprout

Chemical - Cut stump applications are effective as well as complete foliar coverage at the proper time



competing with invasive blackberries

Where found - No populations of escaped, untended bushes are known to be in Stevens County at this time but it could pop up almost anywhere