

Many of the suspected **Purple Loosestrife** sites that were phoned in to the Saskatchewan Purple Loosestrife Hotline were actually Dame's Rocket; for example, many sites have been spotted along **Swift Current Creek**. Because of its invasive nature, as much care has to be given with Dame's Rocket as Purple Loosestrife.



Dame's Rocket infestation



Purple Loosestrife infestation

Garden Alternatives

If you have Dame's Rocket or Purple Loosestrife growing in your garden, these are some non-invasive alternatives that are just as beautiful!

- ✓ Blazing Star (*Liatris*)
- ✓ Fireweed (*Epilobium angustifolium*)
- ✓ Speedwell (*Veronica longifolia*)
- ✓ Giant hyssop (*Agastache foeniculum*)
- ✓ Monkshood (*Aconitum napellus*)
- ✓ Pink bee-plant (*Cleome serrulata*)
- ✓ Delphinium spp.
- ✓ Garden lily (*Lilium* spp.)
- ✓ False spirea (*Astilbe arendsii*)
- ✓ Iris spp.
- ✓ Lupine (*Lupinus*)
- ✓ Western wild bergamot (*Monarda fistulosa*) or Bee balm
- ✓ Lobelia (*Lobelia cardinalis*)
- ✓ Garden phlox (*Phlox paniculata*)
- ✓ Salvia (*Salvia superba*)

For more information on this and other invasive alien plant species, or to **report sitings** of them, please contact:

Swift Current Creek Watershed Stewards Inc. (SCCWS)

Phone: (306) 778-5007

Email: stewards@sccws.com

Website: <http://www.sccws.com>

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Dame's Rocket

(*Hesperis matronalis*)



Have you seen this flower?

Aliases:

Dame Rocket

Mother-of-the-evening

Dame's Violet

Violet Sweet Rocket



Where is it found?

Dame's Rocket is native to Eurasia, but was introduced to North America in the 1600's. Because it is not native to our area and takes over landscapes, it is considered an invasive alien species. It generally grows in moist woodlands, woodland edges, roadsides, open areas, and especially in riparian areas (along creeks, wetlands, etc.). It was introduced to North America as an ornamental plant, and is sold in many garden centers as a perennial and in many "wildflower" seed mixes.

Environmental and Economic Impacts

This attractive but undesirable plant produces a **great number of seeds**, allowing it to crowd out native vegetation.

Dame's Rocket has no natural predators or diseases in North America, so it is able to spread prolifically. It also has a much longer growing season (**flowers June to July**) than most native plants, putting it at an advantage.

Dame's Rocket crowds out desirable native plants. This changes the structure of riparian ecosystems, and changes how they function (ability to filter contaminants, stop soil erosion, slow water flow, and change wildlife habitat). This can **deteriorate water quality**.

In the City of Swift Current, Dame's Rocket has been found along the Swift Current Creek. This has likely happened because seeds of plants in residents' gardens have been washed into storm sewers and discharged into the creek.

Each plant can produce up to 20,000 seeds!

Dame's Rocket blooms from June to early July, and has very fragrant flowers.

Management / Control

✓ **Avoid "wildflower" seed mixes with Dame's Rocket listed.** Be sure you know exactly what is in wildflower mixes before purchasing!

✓ **Large infestations: clip off** plants with pruning shears near ground when plants in full bloom. Pulling causes soil disturbance, doubling the number of seedlings in established communities.

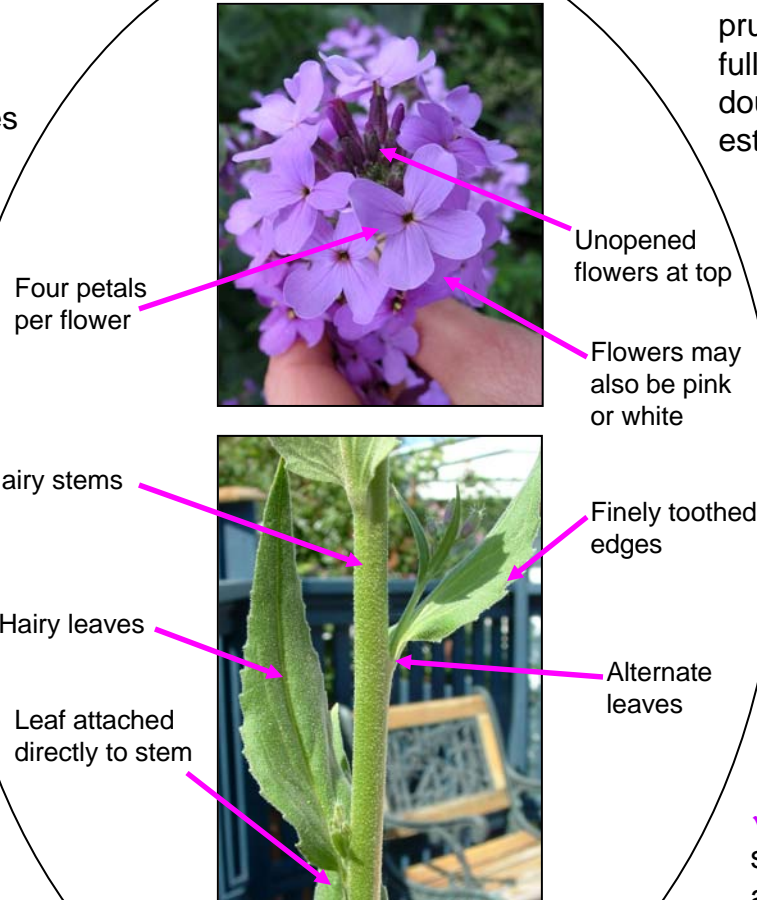
✓ **Small infestations (< 100 plants / 10 m²): pull entire plant**, bag plant for landfilling or burn. Don't let plants dry before burning as seedpods may burst open and spread seeds. May compost if not flowering yet.

✓ **Mow** large infestations during peak bloom to deplete seedbank.

✓ **Spot-apply glyphosate herbicides** in late fall when native plants are dormant but Dame's Rocket's basal rosette leaves are green and vulnerable to spray. **Avoid other plants and watercourses.**

✓ **Integrated Pest Management** in large sites: Combine mowing/clipping and applying herbicide to rosettes in fall will eliminate seed production and deplete seed bank.

All control measures must be repeated annually to eliminate the seedbank in the soil!



Basal rosette (1st year growth)

Cylindrical seed pods

