

BeetleMania Invasion

This June, nine thousand Galerucella beetles were released at Meadow Lake in FDR Park to control an invasive plant called **purple loosestrife**. Purple loosestrife is spreading throughout FDR Park and forming stands which out-compete our native plants and reduce the habitat quality for the birds and other wildlife that use the park. For several years, we have been actively controlling purple loosestrife using mechanical methods and herbicide.



Purple Loosestrife

The Galerucella beetles are another tool for us to use to control this aggressive plant. Galerucella beetles seek out and feed on the leaves of purple loosestrife. These beetles require purple loosestrife to complete their life cycle, so they are not a threat to our native plants. While the Galerucella beetles will not eliminate the purple loosestrife from FDR, they are expected to keep the purple loosestrife at low levels. The success of this release will be monitored on a regular basis. Stay tuned.



Courtesy of Don Hamilton, University of Guelph