

***Lythrum hyssopifolia* L.**

Grass-poly

Archaeophyte

GB & England: Endangered

Schedule 8

Section 41

GB Scarce

VC5 Absent; VC6 Lost

An annual of bare or disturbed ground flooded in winter. Only recorded twice in Somerset, both times in gardens in VC6. Murray (1896) discovered two plants in his own garden in Baltonsborough in 1882, on gravel brought from Wells a few months previously. The gravel came from a pit near the Somerset and Dorset railway station, by the road to Glastonbury (Priory Road Station). It was not seen again in Somerset until found in a garden in Wraxall by H. Kay in 1971 (Willis, 1972). There have been no further records in Somerset. This species has declined dramatically and has been rare since the mid-nineteenth century; however it is often erratic in occurrence and seeds have considerable longevity, so reappearance is a possibility.