

NEW JERSEY NON-NATIVE PLANTS

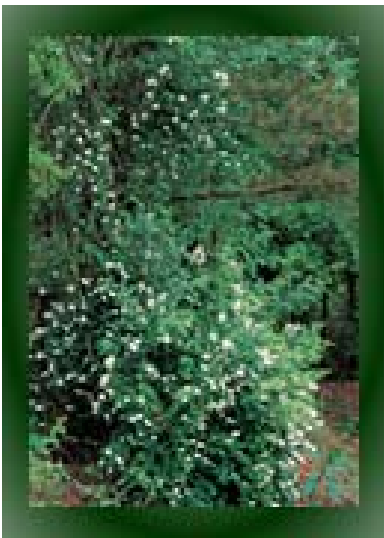


Multiflora Rose

(*Rosa multiflora*)

Description

Multiflora rose occurs abundantly in disturbed or successional habitats like fields, roadsides, railroad and utility rights-of-way, old home sites, thickets, and agricultural lands. It also invades natural plant communities like floodplain forests, calcareous fens, grasslands, and forest gaps. Multiflora rose grows as a thorny perennial shrub with arched canes, but can also sprawl or climb in trees 10 feet or more. The compound leaves are divided into 4-11 oval leaflets with toothed margins. The leaves are arranged alternately along the stems. Multiflora rose flowers in spring and early summer with clusters of white to pinkish-white flowers. The fruits, or rose hips, mature in fall, turning bright red. A single bush is capable of producing up to a million seeds in one season. The seeds are dispersed by many species of birds and by other animals. The seeds are reported to remain viable for many years, perhaps as long as 10-20 years. Multiflora rose also reproduces vegetatively from root sprouts and from the rooting of the tips of the canes.



Why is Multiflora rose bad for New Jersey?

Multiflora rose can produce dense, impenetrable monocultures that exclude indigenous plants and restrict the movement of some animals. It is a strong competitor for below-ground resources, inhibiting the growth of indigenous plant species and also commercial crops in adjacent agricultural fields. It is tolerant of some shade, and of a range of moisture conditions, enabling it to invade a variety of natural plant communities. It significantly alters natural plant community structures and reduces overall biological diversity.

Multiflora rose



Multiflora rose

Control:

How can you get rid of Multiflora rose?

Mechanical - Repeated mowing or cutting can be used to control the spread of small populations, but will not eradicate them since multiflora rose can resprout from stumps. Small plants can be dug out, provided the entire root is removed. Plant growth regulators have been used effectively to prevent plantings from spreading, and herbicides can be used to kill plants. Pulling individual shrubs out of the ground with a heavy chain and tractor can be successful only if all the roots are removed. If root pieces remain, new plants will regenerate from these. Repeated mowing of the tops has proven to be effective and is generally a good management practice for controlling all types of weeds in a pasture. Research at West Virginia University indicated that three to six mowings per season for more than one year may be necessary to provide a high percentage of plant death.



Chemical - Several potential biological control agents are under investigation and have been used to control multiflora rose. Many of these products contain 2, 4-D as one of their herbicidal components, which include Weedone 170, Weedone CB, Crossbow, Tordon RTU and ACME Super Brush Killer. Herbicides not containing 2, 4-D that are labeled for controlling multiflora rose in pastures or fence rows include Banvel, Garlon, Roundup, Spike, Krenite, and Ally. Several of these herbicides can be applied either as a dormant or foliar treatment. Dormant applications can generally be made anytime while the shrub is dormant, with the preferred time being late winter or early spring, prior to the resumption of growth. Some applications may be made as a basal bark treatment involving solutions containing diesel oil or kerosene as the carrier. These treatments are applied to the lower areas of the canes, including the crown. Herbicides should be used with caution, as they could harm indigenous plants.



Biological – Grazing, especially using sheep or goats, is known to control multiflora rose growing in pastures. Certain insects and diseases are being studied for their effect on multiflora rose. One such disease, called “Rose Rosette,” has been detected in several counties in Indiana. Rose Rosette produces a bright red, witches’-broom-type foliar growth at the end of the canes. Studies conducted by J.W. Amrine at West Virginia University show the disease to be transmitted from plant to plant by a tiny mite. The disease will eventually spread throughout the entire plant, and

the plant will generally die within two years after infection. However, further research is needed.