



BRANDYWINE
CONSERVANCY

Preserving Our
Land & Water

MULTIFLORA ROSE

(*Rosa multiflora*)

Multiflora rose **outcompetes native vegetation for nutrients and water**. It **grows rapidly** and can form **dense thickets**, often invading fields, pastures and woodlands. It is **considered a noxious weed** in several states, including Pennsylvania.

IDENTIFY

MULTIFLORA ROSE | James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org



CHARACTERISTICS

Multiflora rose is a perennial shrub that can grow to 20 feet tall. Stems spread as they grow, rather than growing upright. Leaves are complex with 5–11 sharply toothed leaflets to a leaf and alternately arranged on the stem. Fragrant white to pink flowers about one inch across begin blooming in late spring. Small red fruits (“rose hips”) develop in summer and remain on the plant through winter. Multiflora rose reproduces by seeds that are often dispersed by birds. It also reproduces by layering, when new plants root from the tips of the arching branches that contact the ground. Seeds can be viable up to 20 years.

WHERE FROM

It was introduced from Japan to the United States in the 1860s as rootstock for ornamental roses and wildlife cover. In the 1930s it was promoted for use in erosion control, to confine livestock and for wildlife habitat.



MULTIFLORA ROSE FOLIAGE
Chris Evans, Illinois Wildlife Action Plan, Bugwood.org

WHERE FOUND

Multiflora rose is found throughout the United States, with the exception of the southwest. It occurs along streams, roadsides, fields, pastures and woods, and is also prevalent in disturbed areas, such as woodland edges and tree fall gaps. It is tolerant of various soil, moisture, and light conditions.



MULTIFLORA ROSE FRUITS
Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



MULTIFLORA ROSE INVASION
Nancy Fraley, USDI National Park Service, Bugwood.org



MULTIFLORA ROSE
James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service, Bugwood.org

CONTROL

CHEMICAL METHOD

The cut stump method is most effective, though follow-up treatments are necessary as seeds remain viable in the soil for many years. Cut the plant off at the main stem and apply glyphosate herbicide treatment (e.g., *Roundup* or *Rodeo*) directly to the

stump. This method is particularly effective late in the growing season. For thickets where risk to non-targeted species is minimal, consider spraying the leaves (i.e. foliar application) with herbicide.

MANUAL METHOD

It is effective to repeatedly cut or mow plants 3–6 times per growing season for the first few years of management. Cutting individual plants is suggested when trying to minimize habitat disturbance.

REMEMBER

When removing, **be careful** not to remove or destroy desirable species.

REPLANT

Once eradicated in an area, be sure to restore by planting native species.

FOLLOW-UP

It is important to apply follow-up treatment of the herbicides to prevent re-establishment

USE CARE

Be aware that *Roundup* is a non-selective herbicide and care should be taken to avoid contacting non-targeted species.

SOURCES
U.S. Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service, Plant Conservation Alliance (www.nps.gov/plants/)
U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, National Agricultural Library (www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov)
The Nature Conservancy (www.tnc.org)
Pennsylvania Dept. of Conservation of Natural Resources (www.dcnr.state.pa.us)