

# MILE- a-MINUTE

(*Persicaria perfoliata*)

Mile-a-minute **grows rapidly**, often outcompeting native vegetation by blocking light. Weight and pressure exerted from mile-a-minute vines on native vegetation causes stress. **Tree seedlings are smothered** as mile-a-minute vines climb over them at a rate of approximately six inches a day and a length of approximately 20 feet or more per growing season. Mile-a-minute has a long seeding period, approximately June through October, and seeds persist in soil for up to six years, with staggered germination over the years. Mile-a-minute is also self-pollinating.

## IDENTIFY

MILE-a-MINUTE | Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



### CHARACTERISTICS

Mile-a-minute is an herbaceous, annual, trailing vine that can grow to 15 feet in height. Downward pointing hooks or barbs on delicate reddish stems and underside of leaf blades are characteristic. Leaves are light green, alternate, simple, 1–3 inches wide, shaped like an equilateral triangle. Distinctive leaf-like appendages at the base of each leaf are also an identifying characteristic. Fruit are approximately the size of a small pea and found in metallic blue clusters at the terminal ends of the stems.

### WHERE FROM

Records indicate that mile-a-minute, a Japanese native, first arrived in Portland, Oregon, and Beltsville, Maryland, in 1890 and 1937, respectively. However, it wasn't until mile-a-minute was introduced to a nursery in York County, Pennsylvania, in 1930 that it established and became invasive.



MILE-a-MINUTE FRUITS  
Leslie J. Mehrhoff,  
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### WHERE FOUND

Mile-a-minute is well established in Pennsylvania, Delaware and much of the north. It is found in open areas and disturbed areas, including fields, roadsides, fence rows, and forest edges and openings, as well as natural areas including stream banks, parks, and meadows. It thrives in damp to wet soils and needs a significant amount of direct sunlight daily (>63%).



MILE-a-MINUTE INVASION  
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MILE-a-MINUTE FOLIAGE  
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## CONTROL

### CHEMICAL METHOD

Contact and systemic herbicides, such as glyphosate, imazapyr, and triclopyr, are effective in controlling mile-a-minute. Due to the waxy coating on the leaves, however, the herbicide should be mixed with a surfactant to help it adhere to the plant.

### MANUAL METHOD

In 2004, a boll weevil (the insect *Rhoincomimus latipes*) of 2mm in length was introduced to a patch of mile-a-minute as a biological control. Weevil adults feed on mile-a-minute foliage and weevil

larvae feed within the nodes, causing a lessened seed production. Substantial plant damage has been observed in the years since the release of the weevil.

### MECHANICAL METHOD

It is best to dig up mile-a-minute before it goes to seed in early August as it is an annual plant with a shallow root system.

## REMEMBER

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

(Read and follow all  
herbicide labels carefully  
before use.)