

## Target Invasive Species

### Multiflora Rose *Rosa multiflora*



#### Description

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.

#### Habitat

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. Most early collections have come from woods, roadsides, and other disturbed areas.

#### Threats

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.



UGA0002152

### Control

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. Herbicides should be used with caution, as they could harm indigenous plants.

### Suggested Alternative Plants

Using native shrubs and trees for land restoration and landscaping is one way to prevent invasions by multiflora rose, for example climbing prairie rose (*Rosa setigera*), summersweet (*Clethra alnifolia*), and choke cherry (*Prunus virginiana*). For a list of additional native shrubs, visit [www.bbg.org/nativealternatives](http://www.bbg.org/nativealternatives).

**Sources:** An Overview of Nonindigenous Plant Species in New Jersey, New Jersey Dept of Environmental Protection Natural and Historic Resources Group, Parks and Forestry.

[www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/natural/invasivereport.pdf](http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/natural/invasivereport.pdf).

Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants, C. Colston Burrell,, Brooklyn Botanic Garden All-Region Guides, 2006.

Photographs by James H. Miller. James H. Miller and Karl V. Miller. 2005. *Forest plants of the southeast and their wildlife uses*. University of Georgia Press., Athens. Courtesy of University of Georgia Press. Image scanned by Forestry Images. Usage Guidelines. <http://plants.usda.gov/>.

Drawing Rae Chambers, Pennsylvania State University , [www.forestryimages.org](http://www.forestryimages.org).

Photographed by Rae Chambers, Pennsylvania State University , United States.