

Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*)



Key Identifiers:

- Thorny, perennial, bushy shrub with a more spreading than erect growth form
- Leaves are arranged alternately on the stem and divided into 5-11 leaflets. Each leaflet is broadly oval and finely toothed.
- Clusters of numerous white flowers blossom in late spring
- Fruits are small, firm red hips that may remain on the plant well into winter

Habitat:

- Multiflora rose is found in successional fields, pastures and woodland borders. It may also occur in dense forests near disturbances such as treefall gaps

Methods of reproduction and dispersal:

- Reproduces by seed and by forming new plants that root from the tips of arching stems that touch the ground
- Birds consume the hips and are a primary disperser of the seed
- One plant may produce a million seeds per year, which may remain viable in the soil for up to 20 years

Management Approaches:

- Mechanical and chemical methods are currently the most widely used management techniques
- Repeated cutting or mowing at a rate of 3-6 times per growing season for 2-4 years has been shown to be effective in achieving high mortality rates
- For lighter infestations, hand pulling may be effective if all roots are removed
- Cutting stems and applying a herbicide within a few hours on the stump kills root systems and prevents re-sprouting
- Due to the immense seed bank within the soil, all management methods must be repeated when plants re-sprout

Sources: Carole Bergmann, Montgomery County Department of Parks, Silver Springs, MD
Jil M. Swearingen, U.S. National Park Service, Washington, DC
Bob Szafoni, Illinois Department of Conservation, [Vegetation Management Guideline, Multiflora Rose \(*Rosa multiflora*\)](#)