

Multiflora rose

Rosa multiflora

Description

Introduced from Japan and Korea in the 1800s; later promoted to control soil erosion, as a living fence and for wildlife food and cover until its invasive qualities became apparent; vulnerable to Japanese beetles and a number of other pests and diseases.

Habit

Deciduous; dense; perennial shrub growing up to 5 m (16 ft) tall and 3-4 m (9-23 ft) wide, with long, slender, arching branches.

Leaves

Alternate, pinnately compound with 5-11 leaflets, leaflets 2.5 cm (1 in) long and finely toothed, base of leaf with a finely fringed stipule.

Stems





Green-reddish; arching; rigid with recurved thorns.

Flowers

Numerous, white or slightly pink in color, 5 petals, up to 4 cm (1.5 in) wide, arranged in a panicle; bloom May through June.

Fruits and Seeds

Fruits are small, clustered, hard, smooth, red rose hips that appear in September-October and last into winter; seeds yellowish and dispersed by birds and mammals, remain viable for 10-20 years.

Habitat

Found along roadsides, pastures, disturbed areas, forests and stream banks; tolerates a variety of soil conditions; prefers open, well-drained sites.

Reproduction

By seed. Also by horizontal stems that root at the node and shoots that root at the tips.

Similar

Several native rose species; native roses usually have pink flowers and do not have fringed stipules.

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Monitor paths, edges and open areas. Dig out small plants and remove all roots; cutting or mowing several times throughout the growing season for several years may reduce populations; treat cut stems with herbicide for more effective control. Basal bark treatment effective - spray bottom 18 inches of all stems. Foliar herbicide treatment effective where few natives are present. In fire-adapted communities

where good fuel is present, prescribed fire top kills well and facilitates follow-up with foliar herbicide treatment; repeated late spring fires with good fuels reduces population.

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