



# Multiflora Rose

*Rosa multiflora* Thunb. ex Murr.



**Common Names:** multiflora rose, rambler rose

**Native Origin:** Eastern Asia (Japan, Korea and eastern China) introduced for ornamental purposes in the mid to late 1800's

**Description:** Multiflora rose is a thorny, perennial shrub in the rose family (*Rosaceae*) growing 10–15 feet in height and 9-13 feet in width. Stems are wide arching canes covered with hard thorns. Leaves are alternate, pinnately compound, and have five to eleven sharply toothed oval leaflets. Clusters of showy, fragrant, white to pink flowers begin blooming in May or June. Flowers are 0.5-1 inch wide and have 5 petals. Small bright red fruits, or rose hips, develop during the summer, becoming leathery, and remain on the plant through the winter. It reproduces by seed and by forming new plants that root from the tips of arching canes that contact the ground. Fruits are readily sought after by birds which are the primary dispersers of its seed. It has been estimated that an average plant may produce a million seeds per year, which may remain viable in the soil for up to twenty years.



**Habitat:** It grows in old fields, pastures, prairies, roadsides, and open woods. It thrives in full and partial sun with well-drained soils. It cannot tolerate winter temperatures below -28° F.

**Distribution:** This species is reported from states shaded on Plants Database map. It is reported invasive in AR, CA, CO, CT, DC, DE, GA, IL, IN, KY, LA, MA, MD, ME, MI, MO, MS, NC, NH, NJ, NY, OH, OR, PA, RI, SC, TN, VA, VT, WI, and WV.

**Ecological Impacts:** Multiflora rose is extremely prolific and can form impenetrable thickets that exclude native plant species. It invades a large number of habitats such as hillside pastures, fence rows, right-of-ways, roadsides, forest edges, margins of swamps and marshes.

### Control and Management:

- **Manual-** cutting or mowing at the rate of three to six times per growing season, for two to four years is effective
- **Chemical-** It can be effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate or triclopyr. Because of the long-lived stores of seed in the soil, follow-up treatments may be necessary. Follow label and state requirements.
- **Biological Control-** Four agents show potential for biological control in the US. Multiflora rose is vulnerable to defoliation by Japanese beetles. It also suffers from rose rosette disease, a virus like disease that causes plants to turn a deep red color, sprout broom-like growth, and produce more thorns than usual.



Roadside infestation

**References:** [www.forestimages.org](http://www.forestimages.org), <http://plants.usda.gov>, [www.nps.gov/plants/alien](http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien), <http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/esadocs/rosamult.html>, Czarapata, Elizabeth J. Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest, An Illustrated Guide to their Identification and Control, 2005 p. 43-45, Biological Control of Invasive Plants in the Eastern United States p. 280