

Mile-a-Minute

Persicaria perfoliata / *Polygonum perfoliatum*

Fact Sheet

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Common Name: Mile-a-Minute

Latin Name: *Persicaria perfoliata* / *Polygonum perfoliatum*

New Hampshire Invasive Species Status: Prohibited (Agr 3800)

Native to: East Asia / Europe



Triangular shaped leaf (summer)



Mile-a-Minute, NH



Thorny vines (spring/summer)



Leaf (spring)



Small barbs/thorns on vine



Ocrea (Circular leaves)



Immature fruits (summer)



Mature fruits (summer/fall)



Root system (summer)

Description: Very fast growing herbaceous annual vine growing to 25' in height. **Stems:** Greenish with stiff barbs used for support. **Leaves:** Alternate, triangular in shape with clasping bract at the base, 1-3" long. Circular leaves are called ocrea. **Flowers:** Racemes, inconspicuous and white forming at the bract, August - October. **Seeds:** An achene within a greenish, berry-like fruit. **Habitat:** Grows in partial shade to full sun, fields, roadsides & forests. Prefers moist, well-drained soils. **Spread:** Seed spread by birds & wildlife. **Comments:** Fast growing, aggressive. **Controls:** Mowing, hand cutting or herbicide use is recommended.

General Considerations - [FOUND AT ONE SITE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE IN 2011 - UNDER ERADICATION](#)

Mile-a-minute (*Persicaria perfoliata*, formerly *Polygonum perfoliatum*) is a highly invasive herbaceous, annual vine originating from East Asia / Europe and can grow to 10 - 12' (3-4 m) long. It is aptly named due to its rapid growth rate of 6" (15 cm) per day. Its stems are somewhat delicate, reddish, highly branched and covered with small, curved spines. The stems are covered with round, leafy structures called. The leaves are alternate and triangular in shape. They are light green, 1-3" (2.5-7.6 cm) wide and have small barbs on the underside. Small, white flowers develop from the ocrea. The fruits develop in mid-July and remain until the first frost. The berries form terminal clusters and as they mature they turn purple then

darkish blue. The berries are segmented and contain a hard seed called an achene. Mile-a-minute invades open disturbed areas such as fields, forest edges, roadsides, ditches and stream banks. Its rapid growth allows it to cover existing vegetation and restrict light availability, potentially killing plants below. Dense mats of mile-a-minute weed can also restrict establishment of new vegetation. Because it can smother tree seedlings, mile-a-minute weed has a negative effect on Christmas tree farms, forestry operations on pine plantations and reforestation of natural areas.

Control Options

See the following control guides: [Control of Invasive Species by Numbers](#)

<i>Persicaria perfoliata</i> / <i>Polygonum perfoliatum</i> Mile-a-Minute	
Plant Type	Herbaceous - Annual
Habitat Type	Forests, wetlands, floodplains, fields, waste places, roads
USDA Hardiness Zone	
Rooting Structure	Fibrous and shallow
Environmental Impacts	Has allelopathic properties. Outcompetes / suppresses native vegetation.
Wildlife Impacts	Impedes wildlife movement.
Leaf arrangement	Alternate, deltoid
NWI Ranking	Not classified
Soil Type	Sand, loam or clay-based soils
Soil pH Range	5.5 to 6.4
Light Requirements	Prefers full sun, but grows in light shade.
Growing Season	Early spring through frost
Growth Rate	6" (15 cm) per day
Mature Height	10 - 12' (3-4 m) long
Life Span	1-year
Reproductive Age	1- year
Flowering Period	August - October
Flower Type	Monoecious
Pollination	Self-fertilization
Seed Set	July - frost
Seed Per Plant	3,500 seeds
Scarification Required	Yes
Cold Stratification	Yes
Seed Longevity	4-years
Seed Germination Rate	<95%
Seedling Density	500/m ²
Other Propagules	Root fragments
Dispersal Vectors	Birds, small mammals, water

Sources

Mehrhoff, L., 2001. Invasive Plant Atlas of New England, Catalog of Species, *Alliaria petiolata*: http://www.eddmaps.org/ipane/ipanespecies/herbs/Polygonum_perfoliatum.htm

USDA Forest Service invasive species website: <http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/vine/polpefall.html>

Invasives.org: <http://www.invasive.org/browse/subinfo.cfm?sub=3065>

Go Botany: <https://gobotany.newenglandwild.org/species/persicaria/perfoliata/>

University of Connecticut: <http://www.mam.uconn.edu/speciesID.html>