

Multiflora rose

Rosa multiflora

Fact Sheet

NH Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food, Division of Plant Industry, 29 Hazen Dr, Concord, NH 03301
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Common Name: Multiflora rose

New Hampshire Invasive Species Status: Prohibited (Agr 3800)

Latin Name: *Rosa multiflora*

Native to: Japan & Korea



Compound leaves (spring)



Multiflora rose – Concord, NH



Compound leaf (Late summer)



Flowers (spring)



Stipules (summer)



Thorns (summer)



Terminal Bud (spring)



Vining up a native tree (spring)



Rose hips (fall)

Description: Hardy shrub / climber reaching up to 15' or more in height and 10' in width. **Stems:** Long and arching, forming dense clumps, thorns may or may not be present. **Leaves:** Alternately arranged, compound with 7-9 leaflets and having feather margins at base. **Flowers:** Clusters of white or pink, June to July. **Fruit:** Rose hips turn red in fall. **Zone:** 3-8. **Habitat:** Prefers moist, well drained soils, full sun. **Spread:** Fruits with seeds are dispersed by birds. **Comments:** Very aggressive, leading to competition and displacement of native species. **Controls:** Hand or mechanical removal, cutting, or herbicide application.

General Considerations

Multiflora rose is a large perennial shrub that forms dense stands of impenetrable thickets that can grow to 30 ft in diameter by 6-10 ft tall, which displaces native vegetation. It can also grow as a climbing vine reaching heights of 25-30 ft. It has alternately arranged, pinnately compound leaves with 7-9 leaflets. Canes grow to 13 ft long and are armed with stout woody thorns. It forms large clusters of fragrant white or pink flowers that bloom from June to July. Like other roses, it forms small red pulpy fruits called hips, which may be eaten by birds. It reproduces from seeds or by rooting at the tip of arching stems that touch the ground. It can be distinguished from native roses by its long arching stems and

numerous small white flowers or hips depending on the season. To verify identification of this plant contact a natural resources professional.

Multiflora rose is highly aggressive and readily colonizes old fields, pastures, roadsides, open woodlands, and forest edge habitats. It can also establish itself in forested sites where open gaps occur. It is most productive in sunny areas with well-drained soils.

Multiflora rose is used for cover during all times of year by cottontail rabbits, white-tailed deer, pheasants, and mice. It is a preferred nesting site species for gray catbirds.

Control Options

See the following control guides: [Integrated Pest Management \(IPM\) for Woody Plants](#); or the [Control of Invasive Species by Numbers](#)

<i>Multiflora rose</i> Rosa multiflora	
Plant Type	Shrub
Habitat Type	Forests, field, roadsides, wetlands
USDA Hardiness Zone	3-8
Rooting Structure	Fibrous shallow
Environmental Impacts	The presence of prickles on stems and leaves are most likely a deterrent for grazing livestock. It is still used as a rootstock for certain cultivated roses and apparently resistant to certain diseases such as black spot. However, it is a host to some viral diseases which can be vectored to cultivated roses.
Wildlife Impacts	Loss of valuable habitat
Leaf arrangement	Alternate and odd-pinnate with 7 to 9 leaflets.
NWI Ranking	UPL, FACU
Soil Type	Well drained
Soil pH Range	5-7
Light Requirements	Prefers partial to full sun, shade
Growing Season	
Growth Rate	1-ft per year
Mature Height	15 ft. (5 m)
Life Span	?
Reproductive Age	1 year
Flowering Period	May to June
Flower Type	Monoecious
Pollination	Insects
Seed Set	September
Seed Per Plant	500,000 per plant
Scarification Required	Yes
Cold Stratification	3-4 °C for 90-120 days
Seed Longevity	10-20 years
Seed Germination Rate	60%
Seedling Density	?
Other Propagules	Seed, suckering, layering
Dispersal Vectors	Birds, mammals & water

Sources

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

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

Invasives.org: <http://www.invasive.org/browse/subinfo.cfm?sub=3003>