

**Impacts:** This plant is extremely aggressive and prolific and can form impenetrable thickets that exclude native vegetation. It is capable of tolerating a wide range of conditions and invading a variety of habitats.



**\*It is illegal to propagate, sell or transport this plant within the Commonwealth.**

**Suspected Means of Introduction:** Multiflora rose was introduced to the US from Asia in 1866 as rootstock for ornamental roses. Since then it has been used as a livestock barrier, a crash barrier on highways, and as cover for wildlife. It is now recognized as a problem due to its tenacious and unstoppable growth habit.

# BioBullies

## Multiflora Rose

*Rosa multiflora*



**Description:** Multiflora rose is a thorny perennial shrub with arching stems and leaves divided into 5 to 11 leaflets. There are small, fringed structures at the base of each leaf stalk called stipules. These stipules are the distinguishing feature that determines whether the plant is native or invasive. Beginning in May or June, showy, white to pink flowers, each about an inch in diameter, appear on the plant. During the summer, it will develop small, bright-red fruits, or rose hips. These hips become leathery and remain on the plant through winter.

## Multiflora Rose

### *Rosa multiflora*

**Native Range:** Japan, Korea, and eastern China

#### Resources for Identification and Control of Multiflora Rose

Headwaters Invasive Plant Partnership

University of Illinois Extension - Champaign, Ford, Iroquois, and Vermilion Counties

Plant Profile Database - USDA

Weed of the Week - USDA Forest Service

Midwest Invasive Plant Network



**Habitat:** Multiflora rose has a wide tolerance for various soil, moisture, and light conditions. It occurs in dense woods, prairies, open fields, and pastures, as well as along stream banks and roadsides and in open fields and pastures.

**Biology:** Multiflora rose reproduces by seed and by new plants that grow from the tips of arching canes in contact with the ground. Fruits are readily sought after by birds, which are the primary dispersers of its seed. It has been estimated that an average multiflora rose plant may produce a million seeds per year, which may remain viable in the soil for up to 20 years.

**Control Methods:** Cutting or mowing multiflora rose 6 times per growing season for three to four years has proven effective. Herbicides such as glyphosate or triclopyr are effective chemical means of control. Follow-up treatments may be necessary, due to the long-living seeds of the plant. It may be most effective to use the cut-stump method of application in the fall. When using herbicide, read the label and follow all state and federal requirements. Currently two naturally occurring biological controls are affecting the spread of multiflora rose: a native fungal pathogen (rose-rosette disease) that spreads by a tiny native mite, and a non-native, seed-infesting wasp, the European rose chalcid.