





BRANDYWINE CONSERVANCY INVASIVE SPECIES PROTOCOLS

Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*)

<p>What It Is</p>  	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perennial shrub that can grow to 20 feet tall • Growth habit is for the stems to spread rather than for the plant to grow upright • Leaves are complex (5-11 sharply toothed leaflets to a leaf) and alternately arranged on the stem • Fragrant white to pink flowers about 1 inch across begin blooming in late spring • Small red fruits (“rose hips”) develop in summer and remain on the plant through winter • Reproduces by seeds that are often dispersed by birds • Also reproduces by layering, when new plants root from the tips of the arching branches that contact the ground • Seeds can be viable up to 20 years
<p>Where It Is Found</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Found throughout the United States, with the exception of the southwest • Occurs along streams, roadsides, fields, pastures and woods • Also prevalent in disturbed areas, such as woodland edges and tree fall gaps • Tolerant of various soil, moisture, and light conditions
<p>Where It Is From</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduced from Japan to the United States in the 1860’s as rootstock for ornamental roses and wildlife cover • In the 1930’s it was promoted as use in erosion control and to confine livestock • Used as wildlife cover for pheasant, bobwhite quail, cottontail rabbit and songbirds • Planted in highway medians to serve as crash barriers and reduce headlight glare • Rooted cuttings were given to landowners for free
<p>Why It Is a Problem</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Out-competes native vegetation for nutrients and water • Growth habit is a problem in pastures and unplowed lands where dense thickets are formed • Considered a noxious weed in several states, including Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Virginia and West Virginia
<p>How to Eradicate It</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is effective to repeatedly cut or mow plants 3-6 times per growing season for the first few years of management • Cutting individual plants is suggested when trying to minimize habitat disturbance • The cut stump method is most effective (cut the plant off at the main stem and apply herbicide to the stump), though follow-up treatments are necessary as seeds remain viable in the soil for many years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Particularly effective late in the growing season ○ Glyphosate treatment (e.g. Roundup, Rodeo herbicides) applied directly to the stump • For thickets where risk to non-targeted species is minimal consider the foliar spray method (spray the plants with herbicide) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If Roundup is used, be aware this is a non-selective herbicide and care should be taken to avoid contacting non-targeted species
<p>What Not to Do</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is important to apply follow-up treatment of the herbicides to prevent re-establishment • Avoid treating the surrounding vegetation when applying herbicide

References

- U.S. Dept. of the Interior, National Park Service, Plant Conservation Alliance (www.nps.gov/plants/)
- U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, National Agricultural Library (www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov)
- The Nature Conservancy (www.tnc.org)
- Pennsylvania Dept. of Conservation of Natural Resources (www.dcnr.state.pa.us)