

# WANTED: MULTIFLORA ROSE

*(Rosa multiflora)*

**Description:** This prickly, dense shrub looks like a native wild rose with its abundant, small, white to slightly pink flowers in May/June and small, hard, smooth red fruits in fall. First planted to control erosion, this Asian invader soon began to overwhelm the neighborhood. It can be identified by looking for fine fringes at the base of the leaf (stipule).

**Environmental Threat:** The seeds of this shrub are viable for 10 to 20 years. Birds and animals spread the seed, and the arching branches root from the tips and nodes. The public unknowingly aids this invader because of its similarity to native roses.

**Known Locations:** Multiflora rose is taking over natural areas along roadsides, streams, lakes and other open sites. It can be found in almost every nature center in Southeast Michigan. It may even be in your back yard.

**What you can do:** Check the identity of the “wild roses” in your yard and neighborhood. Pull or dig small plants, be sure to get most of the root system to prevent resprouting. Larger plants can be cut in late summer to fall and the stumps immediately painted with an herbicide to prevent sprouting. Consult a knowledgeable person before attempting to do this yourself. Be sure to take great care when using chemicals. **READ AND FOLLOW THE LABEL!**



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