



Weed of the Month for May 2017

Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*)

Origin: Japan

Interesting Fact: Multiflora Rose was initially planted all over as a “living fence.” Now, it is one of the few plant species regulated in Indiana with its noxious weed designation.

Description: Multiflora Rose is a woody shrub that has alternate compound leaves, white flowers, and red fruit (rose hips). Branches and stems have prickles (thorns). A good way to distinguish Multiflora Rose from native roses is by its winged stipules.

Defining characteristics:

- Alternate compound leaves with small leaflets that have toothed edges
- Winged stipules (see picture below)
- White flowers with 5 petals that flower in the late spring
- Small red rose hips that develop in the summer



(Left image) A rose hip on the left and the compound leaves of Multiflora Rose

(Center image) The winged stipules of Multiflora Rose

(Right image) Multiflora Rose flowers



Habitat: Found in woods, wood edges, prairies, fallow fields, and roadsides.

A large Multiflora Rose shrub along a pond edge in Daviess County.



Ecological threat: Multiflora Rose grows very densely, forming almost impenetrable thickets. In addition, a single shrub can produce up to a million seeds that animals spread all over.

Control Methods:

- Manual: Small individuals can be pulled by hand (with heavy leather gloves) or dug up.
- Chemical: Foliar application of herbicide to the leaves is effective, as well as cut stump treating the large shrubs. Metsulfuron-methyl and glyphosate can be used for foliar applications.

References

Kaufman, Sylvan R. and Wallace Kaufman. 2012. *Invasive Plants*. Mechanicsburg, PA: Stackpole Books. Print.

Swearingen, J., B. Slattery, K. Reshetiloff, and S. Zwicker. 2010. *Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas*, 4th ed. National Park Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Washington, DC. PDF.