

# Multiflora Rose

*Rosa multiflora*

**Identification:** Multiflora rose can grow as either a tall vine or a dense shrub. Stems are covered with short, thick thorns. This rose flowers in late spring, producing a cluster of small, white flowers (about ½ to 1 inch wide) at the ends of branches.



**KEY TRAIT:** The base of the compound leaf petiole, where the stalk of a leaf is attached to the stem, has a fringed, feathery, or prickly appearance. This distinguishes multiflora rose from most native roses.

**Impact:** Multiflora rose can quickly invade pastures, open fields, and streambanks, forming dense, nearly impenetrable thickets. Each plant yields massive numbers of seeds that remain in the soil for decades, making the permanent removal of this weedy species difficult.

**Removal:** Since multiflora rose produces so many seeds, and cuttings can sprout into new plants, these plants must be removed repeatedly. Several methods can be attempted:

- carefully cut back branches towards the base; either cut repeatedly over a long period or dig out the entire root system



## Replacement:

Climbing Prairie Rose *Rosa setigera*  
Summersweet *Clethra alnifolia*  
Choke Cherry *Prunus virginiana*