

Invasive Species Highlight

Multiflora Rose

Multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*) is native to eastern Asia and was introduced to North America in 1886 as a rootstock for ornamental roses, erosion control, living fence rows and wildlife habitat. Due to the changing climate, multiflora rose is able to spread northward into Minnesota. Multiflora rose is a restricted noxious weed, meaning it is illegal to import, sell, or transport.

Environmental Impact

Multiflora rose forms dense thickets in forest edges, woodlands, oak savannas, prairies, fields, pastures, and roadsides that are painful to walk through and reduce native plant populations. By invading pastures and grazing lands, it reduces grazing quality. An individual plant can spread vegetatively when its stems arch over, touch the ground, send out roots, and start a new plant.



Identification

- Multi-stemmed shrub that can reach 8'-13' tall and 9'-13' wide.
- Leaves are 4"-6" long and are alternate, have 5-11 opposite leaflets with one leaflet at the tip with serrated edges and are 1"-2" long, have a small green stipule at the base of each leaf, and stipules have fringes extending out along their edges.
- Stems are drooping and have thick curved thorns.
- Flowers are white to slightly pink, 1"-2" wide, have 5 petals that each have a notch on the end, and bloom in May-June.
- Seeds are <0.25" around, red to brown, remain viable in the soil for 10-20 years, and one plant can produce up to 500,000 individual seeds.

Look-alikes

Native roses—smooth stipules with no fringe with light pink flowers
Common elderberry (native) - no thorns / has small, black berries
Prickly ash (native) - leaflets have smooth edges



Report new occurrences

Submit a report through EDDMaps, iNaturalist, Seek or by contacting your local SWCD.

Visit our website for additional Invasive Species Highlights - winonaswcd.org

For any questions, call Abbi Hoffman - 507-523-2171 x113

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References and Resources

“Minnesota Noxious Weeds” *Minnesota Department of Transportation*. <https://www.dot.state.mn.us/roadsides/vegetation/pdf/noxiousweeds.pdf>

“Multiflora Rose” Gupta et al. 2019. *University of Minnesota Extension*. <https://extension.umn.edu/identify-invasive-species/multiflora-rose>

“Multiflora Rose” *Minnesota Department of Agriculture*. <https://www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/pestmanagement/weedcontrol/noxiouslist/multiflorarose>

“Multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*)” *Minnesota Department of Natural Resources*. <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/multiflorarose/index.html>

“*Rosa multiflora* (Multiflora Rose)” *Minnesota Wildflowers*. <https://www.minnesotawildflowers.info/shrub/multiflora-rose>