

Invasive Species Alert

Mile-a-Minute Weed

(*Persicaria perfoliata*)

Detected in Michigan

Identification:

- Stems have recurved barbs, also on underside of leaf blades
- Light green leaves are alternate and shaped like an equilateral triangle
- Small white flowers, often inconspicuous
- Deep blue colored fruit arranged in clusters



Photo: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

Habitat: This herbaceous, annual, trailing vine colonizes open and disturbed areas with a preference for very wet soil. Typical infestation areas include stream banks, open space, roadsides, forest edges, and fence lines. Mile-a-minute weed thrives with abundant sunlight and uses its recurved barbs to attach to and climb over other plants.

Native Range: India to Eastern Asia, China, and islands from Japan to the Philippines

U.S. Distribution: Reported in Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, Maryland, Michigan, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Virginia, West Virginia, and Washington.



Photo: Todd L. Mervosh

Local Concern: Mile-a-minute weed can grow up to 25' in six to eight weeks. Dense, prickly thickets overtake native vegetation. Christmas tree farms, orchards, reforestation and restoration areas are at risk because of the vine's propensity to smother tree and plant seedlings. Seeds may survive in the soil for up to six years.

Other Common Names:
Asiatic tearthumb

To report this species, visit www.michigan.gov/invasivespecies for contact information. Report online at www.misin.msu.edu or download the MISIN smartphone app and report it from your phone