

Invasive Species Alert

MULTIFLORA ROSE

(ROSA MULTIFLORA)

ESTABLISHED IN MICHIGAN

IDENTIFICATION:

- Multi-stemmed shrub that grows to 15 feet.
- Leaves divided into five to 11 sharply-toothed leaflets.
- Stems are green to red and arching, with recurved thorns.
- Clusters of small, five-petaled, white to pink flowers have a strong fragrance.
- Fruits are small, bright-red rose hips that persist into winter.



HABITAT: Once recommended for erosion control and livestock “living fences,” this fast-spreading shrub now inhabits pastures, old fields, roadsides, forests, streambanks and wetlands. Multiflora rose tolerates a broad range of soils and moisture conditions and can thrive in sun or shade.

NATIVE RANGE: Japan, Korea, Eastern China.

U.S. DISTRIBUTION: Eastern half of the United States as well as Oregon and Washington.



MICHIGAN DISTRIBUTION: Widespread and established throughout the state.

LOCAL CONCERN: Multiflora rose spreads aggressively, both by rooting canes (ends of branches) and by seed dispersed by birds and wildlife. Dense thickets of this shrub crowd out beneficial shrubs and plants and may deter native birds from nesting.

REPORT THIS SPECIES: Visit [MISIN.MSU.edu](https://www.misin.msu.edu) or download the MISIN smartphone app and report it from your phone.

Photos courtesy of Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org.