

MULTIFLORA ROSE

(ROSA MULTIFLORA)

2019 Status in Maine:

Widespread. Very invasive. Perennial deciduous shrub, up to 20' tall, with branching canes that can grow up other plants and trees. Originates in Japan and Asia.

Identify

Leaves: Compound leaves with 5-11 toothed leaflets. Stem (petiole) that attaches leaf to twig is fringed at the end.

Flowers: Typically white but may be pale pink. 5-parted. Clustered at twig tips. Bloom in June.

Fruit: Fruit is a small, ~1/4", round to oblong rose "hip". Matures from green to red. Clustered at twig tips.

Stem: Twigs have sharp thorns, typically curved.

Location

This plant is moderately shade tolerant but is more productive in full sun. It tolerates dry to moist soils. Can be found in forest edges, fields, and forest interiors after disturbance.

Parks of concern: Bug Light Park, Hinckley Park, Thomas Knight Park, Yerxa Park, Greenbelt, Wainwright, Trout Brook Nature Preserve.

Problem

It can grow in dense thickets that shade out native plants, dominating the understory and slowing forest regeneration. Seeds can be spread long distances by animals.

How it spreads: Fruits are eaten by birds and small mammals. Seeds are viable in soil up to 20 years. Arching branches are also able to root at tip.

Management

Small plants can be pulled when the soil is moist. Larger plants can be cut but this must be done several times during the growing season for several years as the plant can re-sprout. Care should be taken to dry or burn all plant parts before disposal.

