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Environmental and Geographic Information
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Invasive Plant Information Sheet


Multiflora Rose Rosa multiflora Rose Family (Rosaceae)
Ecological

Ecological Impact: Multiflora rose is an extremely prolific shrub that forms dense, impenetrable thickets which crowd and shade out native species. Individual plants can produce up to 500,000 seeds per year, many of which germinate near the parent. Seeds remain viable in the soil for up to 20 years. Fruits are sought after by birds and mammals, which subsequently disperse the seeds. The shrubs are highly competitive for soil nutrients and can lower crop yields in adjacent fields.

Control Methods: The most effective control method for Multiflora rose is to prevent establishment by annually monitoring for and removing small plants. Repeated cutting and/or mowing over several consecutive years will reduce plant vigor and help prevent spread. However, herbicide use in combination with cutting may be more effective for larger plants.

Mechanical Control: Small, scattered plants can be removed with a shovel, weed wrench, or grubbing hoe. Be sure to remove the entire plant, including all roots, since new plants can sprout from root fragments. Root sprouts resemble seedlings, but are attached to a lateral root and are nearly impossible to pull up. Large patches of plants can be mowed or cut three to six times a growing season for two to four years. Mowing will prevent seedling establishment and is particularly effective where grass cover is dense. Large plants can be top cut with hedge cutters, then mowed annually. Hand cutting large clumps is difficult and time consuming. As an alternative, heavy equipment like a bulldozer can be used to knock down clumps, but further control is necessary due to resprouting and seed germination on disturbed soil. In high quality natural areas, hand cutting is preferred to mowing or bulldozing to minimize habitat disturbance.

Chemical Control: Herbicides can be applied broad scale as a foliar spray, or to select individuals as cut stump treatments. Foliar sprays are highly effective, but should be used only where contact with nearby native vegetation can be prevented.

1) Foliar Sprays: This method can be used throughout the growing season, but results will not be

fully seen until the following spring. Spray a 1-2% v/v solution of glyphosate (e.g., RoundupTM or RodeoTM) or a 0.5% v/v solution of glyphosate plus a surfactant. If plants are in or near wetlands, only RodeoTM should be used. Glyphosate is a non-selective herbicide that will kill all vegetation. Managers should be cautious not to spray so heavily that herbicide drips off the leaves. Other foliar sprays found to be effective include water-soluble triclopyr (Garlon 3ATM) and dicamba (BanvelTM), both specific for broadleaf plants, and fosamine (KreniteTM), a bud inhibitor for woody species. Dicamba is most effective if used when plants are flowering. Fosamine is effective throughout the growing season.

2) Cut Stump Treatment: This method can be used throughout the growing season or during dormancy. Fall application is recommended since, at this time, plants are translocating nutrients to the roots. To ensure uptake of the herbicide before the plant seals off the cut, apply immediately after cutting, within 5-15 minutes. Use a solution of water-soluble triclopyr (Garlon 3ATM) and apply with a hand-held sprayer.

Biological Control: Currently, there are no known biological control methods. A native pathogen which causes rose-rosette disease, and a seed-infesting wasp (European rose chalicid) are being investigated as potential control agents.

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