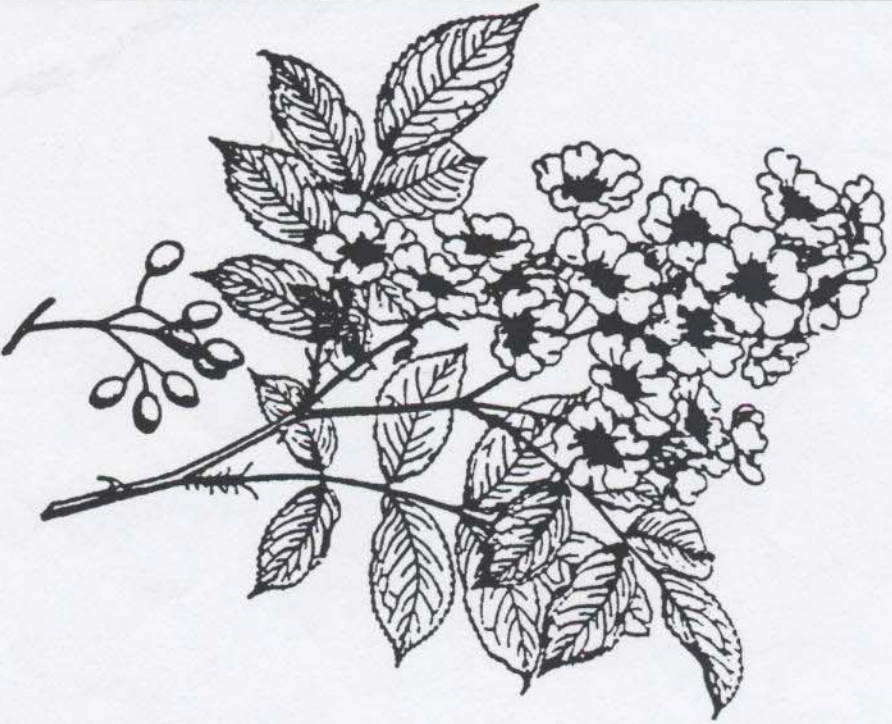


Invasive Alert

Multiflora Rose

Rosa multiflora



Description:

A large spreading shrub reaching 10 feet in height with long, arching stems covered with stout thorns and bearing leaves of five to ten one-inch long, oval leaflets. Clusters of one-inch white flowers bloom in June, followed by quarter-inch hard, red "hips" in August.

History:

Introduced from Asia in the 1860's, Multiflora Rose was originally sold for ornamental purposes, erosion control, wildlife cover and food, and as a so-called "living fence". In the 1930's, conservation agencies began distributing this species for use as a wildlife food plant, and also as a quick-growing cover for erosion control.

The Problem:

Widely spreading from cultivation, Multiflora Rose can dominate native vegetation along roadsides, old fields, and forest edges, with birds being the primary agent of dispersal. Multiflora Rose may still be available from some outlets.

Control:

When first detected, regular mowing can be effective in preventing establishment of seedlings. Larger shrubs can be dug out or pulled using a weed wrench, but if this method is not practical the plants can be cut and the stump treated with herbicide to prevent resprouting.

Alternatives:

Many other species of native and ornamental roses, blackberries, and similar shrubs are available as substitutes.

RI Wild Plant Society

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