

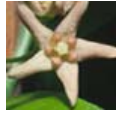


# Invasive Plant Atlas of New England

## Catalog of Species Search Results

### *Rosa multiflora*

(Multiflora rose )



[:: Catalog of Species Search](#)



[Common Name\(s\)](#) | [Full Scientific Name](#) | [Family Name Common](#) | [Family Scientific Name](#) | [Images](#) | [Synonyms](#) | [Description](#) | [Similar Species](#) | [Reproductive/Dispersal Mechanisms](#) | [Distribution](#) | [History of Introduction in New England](#) | [Habitats in New England](#) | [Threats](#) | [Early Warning Notes](#) | [Management Links](#) | [Documentation Needs](#) | [Additional Information](#) | [References](#) | [Data Retrieval](#) | [Maps of New England Plant Distribution](#)

#### COMMON NAME

Multiflora rose

#### FULL SCIENTIFIC NAME

*Rosa multiflora* Thunb. ex Murr.

#### FAMILY NAME COMMON

Rose family

#### FAMILY SCIENTIFIC NAME

Rosaceae

#### IMAGES



Incursion



Close-up of flowers



Close-up of fringed stipules



Pink-flowered



Flowers



Fruit

form

## NOMENCLATURE/SYNONYMS

**Synonyms:** *Rosa cathayensis* (Rehd. & Wilson) Bailey

## DESCRIPTION

### Botanical Glossary

*Rosa multiflora* is a densely spreading perennial shrub that can grow up to 4.5 m (15 ft.) tall. It has glabrous arching canes that can be red to green in color. Most *Rosa multiflora* plants have thorns, but there have been some plants observed without. The leaves are alternate and pinnately compound, with 5-11 serrated, elliptic leaflets that are 2.5-4 cm (1-1.5 in.) long. These leaves are smooth and dark above and pale with small hairs below. The stipules are pectinately toothed.

This plant produces fragrant flowers during May and June. Each inflorescence bears many flowers, and the flowers have five white (or sometimes pink) petals and numerous stamens. Red fruits develop in mid to late summer, are nearly spherical and measure 6-8 mm (0.25-0.3 in.) in diameter.

Page References Bailey 533, Fernald 870, Gleason & Cronquist 257, Holmgren 237, Magee & Ahles 601, Newcomb 318, Peterson & McKenny 2, Seymour 340. See reference section below for full citations.

## SIMILAR SPECIES

*Rosa spinosissima* L. (Scotch rose)

*Rosa wichuraiana* Crepin (memorial rose)

*Rosa multiflora* is distinguished from other roses by the feathery or comb-like margin on its stipules (a narrow, green, leaf-like structure located at the base of each leaf stalk). *Rosa spinosissima* has a profuse amount of narrow, needle-like thorns on its branches. *Rosa wichuraiana* is a low-growing rose that often covers the ground.

## REPRODUCTIVE/DISPERSAL MECHANISMS

The seeds of *Rosa multiflora* are dispersed by birds. The Northern mockingbird (*Mimus polyglottos* L.) seems to be closely associated with it.

## DISTRIBUTION

*Rosa multiflora* is native to Japan. It can be found throughout the United States, with the exception of the Rocky Mountains,

southeastern coastal plains and the Nevada and California deserts. It has been reported from all New England states.

## HISTORY OF INTRODUCTION IN NEW ENGLAND

*Rosa multiflora* was introduced in 1886 from Japan to the United States as rootstock for cultivated roses. From 1930 to 1960 the U.S. Soil Conservation Service advocated its use as a component of living fences and erosion control plans. As late as 1960 its planting was still encouraged for wildlife food and cover. It most likely made its way to New England via bird dispersal or roadside plantings.

## HABITATS IN NEW ENGLAND

Early Successional Forest  
Edge  
Open Disturbed Area  
Pasture  
Planted Forest  
Railroad Right-of-Way  
Roadside  
Utility Right-of-Way  
Vacant Lot  
Yard or Garden

*Rosa multiflora* prefers deep, fertile, well drained but moist upland or bottomland habitats with a mild climate. It can be found along roadsides, in pastures, woodlands, prairies, fields and powerline corridors.

## THREATS

*Rosa multiflora* is widely distributed across the country because of its ability to endure a wide range of edaphic and environmental conditions. *Rosa multiflora* rapidly outcompetes surrounding vegetation, takes over pastures, and lowers crop yields. It forms dense, impenetrable thickets. The canes send up shoots when they come in contact with soil. A single plant can produce 500,000 or more seeds. These seeds can remain viable for 10-20 years in the seed bank. *Rosa multiflora*'s hips are dispersed by birds, especially the mockingbird, cedar waxwing and American robin.

## MANAGEMENT LINKS

[The Nature Conservancy](#)

[The Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group](#)  
Invasive Plant Management Guide

[Illinois Natural History Survey](#)  
General description and management guidelines

## DOCUMENTATION NEEDS

Documentation required: Photograph of habit, flowers and/or fruits.  
Best time for documentation: Spring, summer, fall.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Integrated Taxonomic Information System  
Taxonomic information

PLANTS database  
General information and a map

The Nature Conservancy  
Element Stewardship Abstract, general information and control

Missouri Department of Conservation  
General information and control

Illinois Department of Natural Resources  
General information and control

Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council  
General information and control

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources  
General information

Virginia Native Plant Society  
General information, drawings and control

Maine Natural Areas Program  
General information and control

Virginia Tech Dendrology  
Photographs and description

US Geological Survey  
General information and control

National Invasive Species Information Center  
Additional links

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## DATA RETRIEVAL

Select a task by clicking the radio button and then click "Submit Selection."

- Formatted display as table
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## MAPS OF PLANT DISTRIBUTION IN NEW ENGLAND

Select a study area by clicking the radio button and then click "Submit Selection."

- The whole New England area
- One or more states
- One or more counties
- One or more towns (county sub-divisions)

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