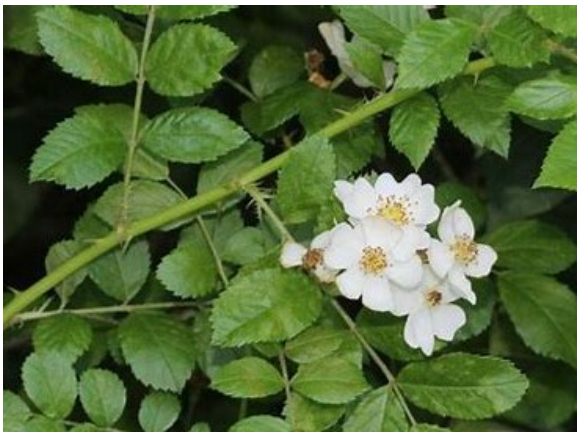
Monthly Invasive Plant Highlight
June 2020

Invasive Plant of the Month: Multiflora Rose

Its scientific name is *Rosa Multiflora*. It is commonly called multiflora rose, multiflora rosa, baby rose, Japanese rose, seven-sisters rose, rambler rose, and multiflowered rose. Multiflora Rose is native to Asia and was first introduced to North America in 1866 as rootstock for ornamental roses. During the mid-1900s it was widely planted as a "living fence" for livestock control. It has invaded many habitats.

Where plants have become well established, a huge seed bank develops that can continue to produce seedlings for at least twenty years after removal of mature plants.



Multiflora Rose blooms

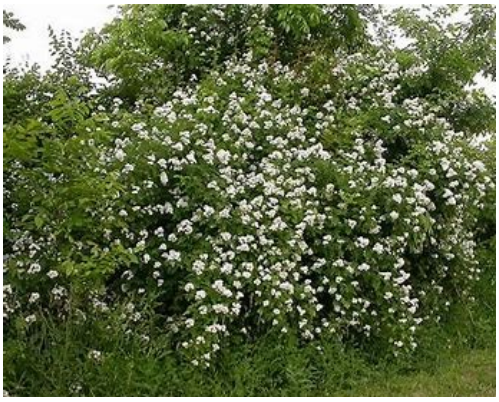
Multiflora rose is a multi-stemmed, thorny, perennial shrub that grows up to 15 ft. tall. Small, white to pinkish, 5-petaled flowers occur abundantly in clusters on the plant in the spring. The fruit are small, red rose hips that remain on the plant throughout the winter.

Multiflora rose forms dense, impenetrable thickets in many regions of the eastern United States as it has no natural system of checks and balances here in the United States. This allows it to take over much of the native vegetation in many national parks in the northeastern portions of the U.S. Since multiflora rose is not easily controlled, the goal has become to eradicate it.

Please Remove It!

If you find Multiflora Rose in your yard, please remove it. For a fully developed plant, cut the bush to a stump then use a shovel to remove the stump and as much of the root system as possible. Wear thick gloves and long sleeves to avoid thorns.

After removal, you may see new plants sprout from the seeds left. Smaller plants can be pulled, especially after a rain. Keeping the area mowed after removing plants is one way to discourage new sprouts.



Multiflora Rose Bush

Information about Multiflora Rose:

www.invasivespeciesinfo.gov/profile/multiflora-rose
www.invasive.org/browse/subinfo.cfm?sub=3071

Why Native Plants?

As open space disappears, it is necessary to look at our own landscapes for biodiversity. Native plants promote the unique relationships between our native plants and animals, from the smallest microorganisms, insects and other invertebrates to birds and mammals.

Native plants, from grasses and wildflowers to towering shade trees, form the base of the food chain. Our native insects are uniquely adapted to eat native plants; some are generalists and can eat a variety of plants, but many are specialists that can only digest certain types of leaves based on the chemistry of the plant.

Research by the entomologist Doug Tallamy has shown that native oak trees support over 500 species of caterpillars whereas ginkgos, a commonly planted landscape tree from Asia, host only 5 species of caterpillars. When it takes over 6,000 caterpillars to raise one brood of chickadees, that is a significant difference.

More information on native plants:

www.vnps.org/natives

www.plantnovanatives.org

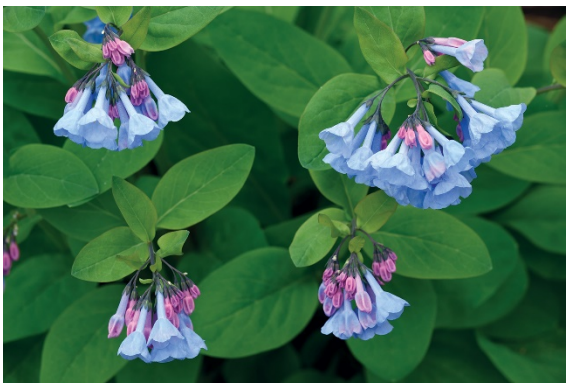
www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder

www.audubon.org/native-plants

More information on invasive plants:

www.invasiveplantatlas.org

www.invasive.org



Native Virginia Bluebells

Who We Are?

The City of Falls Church Habitat Restoration Team restores the local ecosystem in city parks. We remove damaging invasive plants then re- plant with natives that benefit our local birds, butterflies, bees, and pollinators.

We are a community task force that supports the City's Green Space department. We have monthly events in the Fall and Spring open to volunteers.

Native Butterfly Weed

Contact Information

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