

# WANTED:



## DEAD NOT ALIVE!

Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*)

Multiflora Rose is an invasive plant primarily found around edges of woodland areas, pastures, roadsides and in dense forests near disturbed soils. Multiflora Rose is a problem within an ecosystem due the pull of resources to this non native which then allows for fewer resources for native species.

Multiflora is a medium height, thorny shrub. The leaves are alternate on the stem and divided into leaflets of 5-11. Each leaflet is broadly oval, or egg shaped, with serrations along the leaf margin. One distinguishing characteristic is the white flowers that develop in May or June. The flowers develop into a fruit called a rose hip after blooming which is a food source for many animals. This aids Multiflora rose in distribution to new areas. After the seeds are deposited they are viable in soil for 10-20 years.

Multiflora Rose is native to Eastern Asia and was introduced to Illinois in the early 1950's for food and wildlife habitat. It was recognized for its great cover and winter food source and was known and marketed as a "living fence." This turned out to be a HUGE mistake!!

## **HOW TO KILL IT:**

This plant can be killed in several ways. One method is that it can be sprayed in a foliar fashion in the early summer while the plant is blooming. Foliar spraying is applying herbicide to the leaves of the shrub. When foliar spraying, be sure to apply the glysohate only to the Multiflora rose because any plant that receives the glycohate will die. For foliar spraying, a 2% mixture of glysohate (tradename: Roundup) with water is recommended. Another method for controlling Multiflora rose is the cut-and-spray method. For this method, the plant is to be cut off close to the ground and the stump is to be sprayed with a 20-30% solution of glysohate (tradename: Roundup).

This article has been brought to you by Coles County Soil and Water Conservation District, Coles County Partnership for Healthy Forests. For more information contact our Woodland Invasive Team at 345-3901 ext 3.