



Agriculture Newsletter Summer 2013

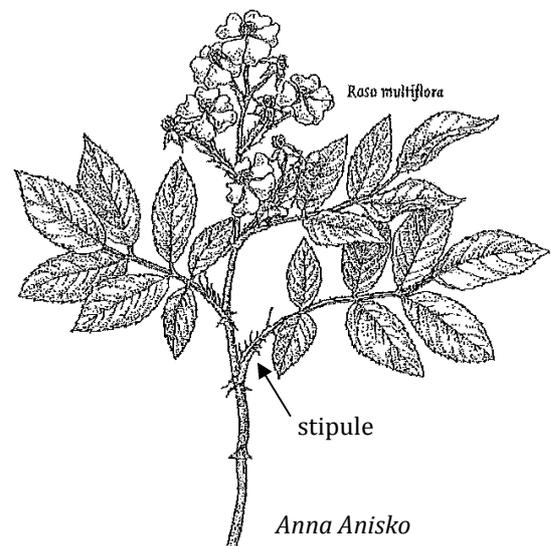


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Preventing the Spread of Multiflora Rose on Your Farm

Multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*), native to Asia, is a highly aggressive shrub listed as a noxious weed in PA. It can be distinguished from other roses by its white to pinkish flowers that appear in late May - June, the fringed stipules, and the pubescent underside of the leaflets. While it provides a source of cover and food for wildlife and was once recommended in erosion control, the negative impacts of this plant outweigh the positives. Multiflora rose can easily outcompete other desirable native plant species; capable of creating impenetrable thickets in just a few years time. It can reproduce by seed or stem, and a single plant can produce as many as 500,000 seeds. Seeds may remain viable for as long as 20 years in the soil. The following page lists several ways to tackle this rose before it takes over your farm.



Mechanical Control

- Scout your fields regularly for smaller bushes and uproot them by hand before they become a larger problem.
- Mow before seed formation to reduce further dispersal by wildlife, and to weaken the plant
- Excavate larger bushes, be sure to remove the root system.

Biological Control

- Invite some goats over to your farm. They enjoy browsing on woody plants like multiflora rose, and can be a great alternative to chemical control.
- Rose Rosette Disease is a virus carried by a mite that causes the rose to die within 2 years of becoming infected. Symptoms of the disease in order of development include red blotches on newer leaves, the formation of many red lateral shoots, and dense groupings of reddish-green leaves on the red lateral shoots.

Chemical Control

- Foliar Treatment: Crossbow, Cimarron Plus, Cimarron Plus & Dicamba or 2,4-D
- Mow & Stump Treatment: Wet the mowed stubble of the rose with Pathfinder II
- Lower Stem Treatment: Wet the lower stem (12 inches) with Pathfinder II
- Be sure to follow the instructions carefully on the label of any herbicide to avoid over application and runoff into waterways.

Resources

Managing Multiflora Rose in Grass Pastures (extension.psu.edu)

Visual Guide to Pennsylvania's Noxious Weeds (www.nrcs.usda.gov)



REAP

Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP)

REAP applications are now available for the 2013-2014 Fiscal Year. Administered by the State Conservation Commission, the program allows farmers and businesses to earn PA state tax credits in exchange for implementing "Best Management Practices" on agricultural operations that will enhance farm production and protect natural resources. Applications are accepted for both proposed and completed projects.

Note: tax credits will be awarded to projects completed after October 23, 2007, but not after the project's lifespan has expired.

Eligible projects include, but aren't limited to:

- Manure Storage Facilities
- No-Till Planting Equipment
- Nutrient Management Plans
- Roof Runoff Structures
- Cover Crops
- Diversions

For more information, contact:

The District office (814) 849 -7463, or visit: <http://www.agriculture.state.pa.us>



Recordkeeping

Manure Management & Nutrient Management Plans: Recordkeeping

Maintaining records at your farm will help you organize and keep track of your operation's activities, determine if there is a need for management changes, and it shows that you are implementing your manure management or nutrient management plan. Listed below are the required records to be maintained at your operation. Records are to be kept at the operation for a minimum of three years and be available for review when requested by DEP or the conservation district. Extra recordkeeping forms are available at the district office.

Manure Management Plans

1. Manure Application Records
2. Crop Yield Records
3. Manure Transfer Records
4. Manure Storage Records

Nutrient Management Plans

1. Annual Manure Production
2. Manure Test Results
3. Soil Test Results
4. Manure & Fertilizer Application Records
5. Crop Yield Records
6. Manure Transfer Records
7. Uncollected Manure Records for Pasture
8. BMP designs & certifications for new liquid & semi-solid manure storage facilities



Ag Progress Days

Ag Progress Days at Penn State are PA's largest outdoor agricultural exposition. This year's show will be held August 13th, 14th, and 15th at the Russell E. Larson Agricultural Research Center at Rock Springs, 9mi. southwest of State College, PA.

It is sponsored by Penn State's College of Agricultural Sciences and features exhibits that showcase the latest in Penn State Research, as well as information on best management practices and changing regulations in the agricultural industry.

For more information, visit: <http://agsci.psu.edu/apd>



Weed Problem Assistance

Want to know what kinds of noxious and invasive plant species you may have around your farm? Contact me at the district (Megan Whitlatch). I can help you identify them and provide you with information on how to control them.

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