Multiflora Rose  
**Rosa Multiflora**

Trailing habit when young, developing into robust shrub with thorny arching stems, 3 – 12’ high and as wide. Often in dense thickets.

**Where found:** Open land, forest edges, roadsides, fence rows, power lines.

Leaves shiny bright green, with 7 – 9 toothed leaflets (.5 – 1.25” long) arranged alternately on compound leaves. Fused pair of fringed leaf stipules at base of leaf stem. Fall leaves yellowish.

Canes long & slender, red to green, with small recurved prickles (usually paired) on lower part. Canes round with solid core, unlike blackberries which have angular stems & spongy core.

Flowers white in terminal clusters of 15 – 20 small white or pink flowers, fragrant, May – July.

Fruit red egg-shaped hips, ¼”, August into winter.

**Similar native plants:** Virginia Rose (*Rosa virginiana*), Meadow Rose (*Rosa blanda*), & Pasture Rose (*Rosa carolina*) are smaller, without long arching stems and without flowers or hips clustered at cane tips.

Harpwell Invasive Plants Partnership, 2015 (4/2015)
**Multiflora Rose (Rosa multiflora) Best Control Practices:**
*First, read the FAQs (see last page) to guide your decisions on How, When, Why, and What control efforts. Then, proceed with the following:*

- Pull when soil is wet, or mow to ground early summer before seed set; repeat 3x/year for 2-4 years.
- If necessary and permitted, cut then spray 3% glyphosate or 3-5% triclopyr to leaf re-sprouts.
- OR, cut to 1’, then, if permitted, paint immediately with 25% glyphosate or triclopyr ester late or off-season, when over 40 degrees.

**Sources:**

[Casco Bay Invasive Species Network, Winning the War on Weeds](#)
[Maine Natural Areas Program, Invasive Plant Fact Sheet, Multiflora Rose](#)
[Video: Herndon Environmental Network, How to Identify and Remove Multiflora Rose (5:30):](#)
hand tools, disposal, herbicides, biological control, native alternatives.
FAQs: To eliminate or control invasive plants in Harpswell?

Choosing a control strategy
Choosing a control strategy requires careful thought as to the size and severity of the infestation and its proximity to water and other natural resources. The Harpswell Invasive Plant Partnership (HIPP) urges land owners to use mechanical (as opposed to chemical) controls whenever possible. Herbicide application within 25 feet of the water is not allowed in Harpswell. Check the Town of Harpswell’s Pesticide Ordinance.

Why control invasive plants?
Infestations of invasive plants damage the lands and waters that native plants and animals need to survive. They out-compete and displace native plant species. Livestock avoid grazing on many invasives (thistles/euphorbia, black swallow-wort), encouraging spread. Invasive seeds may also contaminate hay. Some invasives shelter mice, so increase the numbers of ticks (barberries), and others yield poisonous chemicals (euphorbia, black swallow-wort) that can affect human and animal health. Some invasive roots exude chemicals that poison neighboring plants (knapweed, black swallow-wort).

When is the best time to control invasive plants?
There isn’t one season that works perfectly for all invasives. When trying to prevent invasives from entering the seed-spreading period, manually attack them any time you can. But, when chemicals are needed, leaf-spraying must be done on green leaves, while the cut-and-paint stem applications are only effective during the late season, not when sap is actively flowing. Be sure to follow the guidelines advised on HIPP’s website to time your efforts.

Why avoid chemical herbicides?
The most commonly-used herbicides for invasive plant control are glyphosate (Roundup) and Triclopyr (Garlon 4 and 3A). Glyphosate is known to be mildly toxic to bees, which are already threatened. Triclopyr is slightly toxic to birds, fish, and aquatic invertebrates, and can cause severe eye damage.

Why use chemicals?
Sometimes, cautiously using herbicides is less disturbing to the environment than other possible control methods. At other times, the plant infestation is too large or dense to realistically remove mechanically. If chemicals are needed, follow professional advice for when and how much chemical to use. Using chemicals that are mixed too strongly can damage the visible leaves while never seeping into the root structure to kill the plant.

When using chemicals why not just use Roundup (or Triclopyr) for all the invasives?
Neither Roundup nor Triclopyr works reliably for every invasive plant. Following the guidelines advised on HIPP’s website will help you choose the right herbicide for the job, save you money, and minimize environmental damage.

Harpswell Invasive Plant Partnership Plant Fact Sheets
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