Multiflora Rose - *Rosa multiflora*

**Identification**
Multiflora rose is a thorny shrub that can grow up to 15 feet tall. The stems are round, arcing canes. Anyone who has tried to walk through a thicket of multiflora rose will be familiar with the sharp, curved thorns that cover the canes (Figure 1). Small white flowers (Figure 2) and later rose hips (fruit) (Figure 3) grow abundantly in clusters. This rose is easily distinguished from other wild roses by the feathery fringe at the base of each leaf, where the leaf joins the branch (Figure 4).

**Habitat and Distribution**
Multiflora rose is native to Asia and, during the mid-1900s, was widely planted as a “living fence” for livestock control. It has also been planted for wildlife habitat and food. Multiflora rose is found throughout the Eastern United States and is widespread throughout Georgia, but a most problematic in the Piedmont.

**Impact**
Multiflora rose can form impenetrable thickets in pastures, open forests, and forest edges (Figure 5). It is spread both by vegetative means and by seeds, which are dispersed by birds and mammals. It grows so thick that it can restrict human, livestock and wildlife movement and displace native vegetation. Multiflora rose does not grow well in closed canopy forests, but invades quickly after any disturbance and is difficult to eradicate once well established.

**Control Recommendations**
Thoroughly wet all leaves with one of the following herbicides in water with a surfactant: April to June (at or near the time of flowering)—Escort* at 1 ounce per acre in water (0.2 dry ounces per 3-gallon mix); August to October—Arsenal AC* as a 1-percent solution (4 ounces per 3-gallon mix) or Escort at 1 ounce per acre in water (0.2 dry ounces per 3-gallon mix); May to October—repeated applications of a glyphosate herbicide as a 2-percent solution in water (8 ounces per 3-gallon mix), a less effective treatment that has no soil activity to damage surrounding plants.

For stems too tall for foliar sprays, apply Garlon 4* as a 20-percent solution in basal oil (2.5 quarts per 3-gallon mix) with a penetrant (check with herbicide distributor) to young bark as a basal spray (January to February or May to October). Or, cut large stems and immediately treat the stumps with one of the following herbicides in water with a surfactant: Arsenal AC* as a 10-percent solution (1 quart per 3-gallon mix) or a glyphosate herbicide as a 20-percent solution (2.5 quarts per 3-gallon mix).

*Nontarget plants may be killed or injured by root uptake.*

Prepared by Karan Rawlins and David Moorhead, the Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health, The University of Georgia, Tifton - September 2009. BWS6

The preparation of this fact sheet was financed in part through a grant from U.S. Forest Service in partnership with the Georgia Forestry Commission as part of the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act.