

Multiflora Rose

Rosa multiflora

Description -

- Thorny, round-shaped, medium to large shrub.
- Leaflets in arrangement of 7 to 9, each leaflet fingernail size, serrated on edges, and longer than wide.
- Flowers are small and white to pinkish white.
- Fruit are rose hips turning from green to red to brown through winter.

Distribution - Widely distributed in KY along road sides, fencerows, stream sides, forest edges and into the interior, and un-maintained fields.

Threat - Forms single species thickets crowding out native plants, especially at stream sides. Seeds are spread by birds and other animals.

Control - Mowing can keep invasions in check. Pulling up small plants can be effective if repeated to control root sprouts and seedling germination. Chemical control involves foliar sprays (glyphosate, triclopyr @ 2 to 3%), cut stump treatment of the same sprays (@ 25% concentrations), and basal bark treatment (triclopyr @ 25% mixed with horticultural oil).

Similar Plants - Native roses. Multiflora rose has a feathery or comb-like projection (stipule) at the base of leaf stems. Other roses have this projection, but lack the feathery or comb-like characteristic.

Origin - Japan, Korea, eastern China

(Reference: Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council)

Information and resources provided by TN & SE Exotic Pest Plant Councils (tneppc.org and se-eppc.org), Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere Program (samab.org), TVA, The University of Tennessee, US Fish & Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy, Plant Conservation Alliance, and others.

Oriental Bittersweet

Celastrus orbiculata

Description -

- Twining vine with round, glossy to semi-glossy, finely toothed leaves the size of a quarter to half-dollar.
- Flowers and fruit occur at base of leaf stems.
- Greenish-yellow flowers in May with 5 petals.
- Greenish-yellow fruit splits open to reveal three red-orange fleshy seeds.

Distribution - Scattered in Kentucky with populations spreading. Alluvial woods, road sides, thickets, and old home sites. Seeds spread by birds and small mammals.

Threat - Aggressively covers, shades, and chokes native vegetation at all levels. Believed to readily hybridize with native bittersweet. Tolerates shade. From forest edges it can enter forests.

Control - Hand pull small infestations, but requires 100% removal, which is difficult. For dense infestations, cut vines and follow with glyphosate herbicide to the stumps. (Note: Apply herbicides before spring wildflowers emerge or after killing frost.) Follow-up & late season treatments necessary.

Similar Species - American bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*), which has flowers only at ends of vines and oblong (not round) leaves.

Origin - Eastern Asia

(Reference: TN Exotic Plant Management Manual; Plant Conservation Alliance, Alien Plant Working Group; Exotic Pest Plants of Southeastern Forests)

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Tree of Heaven

(Chinese sumac, stink sumac)

Ailanthus altissima

Description -

- 11 to 25 spear-shaped leaflets per leaf.
- Small lobes at leaflet base a key identifier, each lobe having a small hard bump (gland). Leaflet edge smooth.
- Crushed leaves, broken twigs, and cut bark have acrid burnt peanut butter odor.
- Yellow-green flowers cluster at end of limbs in July, turn to gray seed clusters in winter.

Distribution - Widespread in the U.S. Scattered throughout Kentucky.

Threat - Grows thickly, excluding native species. Roots exude chemicals that push out native plants. Infests closed woodlands but most common along open areas and forest edges.

Control - Hand pull freshly germinating seedlings, removing entire root. Cut down and immediately spray stump with 25% ai glyphosate in water base in Sept; girdle-inject with 25% ai glyphosate in water base in Sept; basal paint bark with 25% ai glyphosate in oil base in Sept.

Similar Species - Sumac (smooth, staghorn, shining/winged), but sumac has milky sap; black walnut, but crushed walnut leaves have walnut odor, not the acrid tree of heaven odor.

Origin - Central China

(Reference: TN Exotic Plant Management Manual, Plant Conservation Alliance, Alien Plant Working Group)

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