

HERBICIDE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONTROL OF MULTIFLORA ROSE. Mark M. Loux, Professor, Dept. of Horticulture and Crop Science, The Ohio State Univ., Columbus, OH 43210.

Weed scientists and agronomists at a number of universities have conducted research on the control of multiflora rose with herbicides. Although there is not a plethora of information on management of multiflora rose, results of these studies and recommendations for control have been reported in newsletter articles and other extension publications. Extensive research on chemical control was conducted by The Ohio State University between 1971 and 1995. The results of these studies, along with applicable research from other states, was the basis for one of the more comprehensive publications on this subject, OSU Extension Bulletin 857, "Multiflora Rose Control", which was recently updated and reprinted. This publication also contains information on control with grazing and mowing, along with a summary of current knowledge on biological agents that infest multiflora rose. A search of the World Wide Web using "multiflora rose control" as the search phrase turns up most of the relevant information, including the following: "Multiflora Rose and its Control" – Iowa State University; "Long-term Strategies to Control Multiflora Rose – University of Wisconsin; "Control of Autumn Olive, Multiflora Rose, and Tartarian Honeysuckle: Chemical Information" – West Virginia University/NRCS; and "Multiflora Rose Management in grass Pastures" – Penn State University.

Multiflora rose can be effectively controlled with a variety of application methods and herbicides, and it can be accomplished in the spring, summer, or winter. The choice of application method should be based on the type of situation (pasture, ditchbank, noncrop, etc), topography, the population density of the multiflora rose, and seasonal labor availability. For example, a dense infestation of relatively small multiflora rose in a fencerow might be treated with a foliar application of herbicide in the late spring or summer, especially where the topography allows use of a tractor or ATV-mounted sprayer. Conversely, a less dense infestation of well-established plants on a hillside might be controlled with basal bark treatments in the winter. To prevent herbicide from contaminating water, plants adjacent to water can be cut and the stumps immediately treated with herbicide. The most effective long-term control often involves a combination of chemical and mechanical control. It is essential to implement annual control measures to prevent reinfestation by seedlings and retreat plants that survive prior herbicide treatment.

The most effective herbicides for foliar application to multiflora rose include glyphosate, imazapyr, and metsulfuron methyl, which can be applied between leafout in spring through the onset of leaf senescence in the fall. Several other herbicides can be effective if applied by June, and these include dicamba, and commercially available mixtures of triclopyr plus 2,4-D, dicamba plus 2,4-D plus 2,4-DP, and picloram plus 2,4-D. Herbicide products that contain growth regulator herbicides (dicamba, triclopyr, picloram) can be more effective when applied as basal bark treatments compared with foliar application. Basal bark treatments are applied during the winter to dormant plants. Kerosene or diesel fuel is typically included in the spray mix to facilitate herbicide movement through the bark. Herbicides that are effective in basal bark treatments include dicamba, and commercially available mixtures of triclopyr plus 2,4-D, dicamba plus 2,4-D plus 2,4-DP.

Dicamba and metsulfuron methyl are effective when applied as a spot concentrate to the soil area within about 20 cm of plant crowns. Spot concentrate treatments should be applied in winter when plants are dormant. Application of tebuthiuron pellets to the soil around multiflora rose plants is also effective, primarily when applied in the winter months, although control of plants may not be immediately evident. Tebuthiuron will kill most other vegetation in the treated area. Research at Purdue University showed effective control from application of herbicide directly to the cut stumps of large plants. Herbicide products labeled for cut stump application and containing imazapyr, triclopyr, and picloram are suitable for this application method. A number of these products are formulated and packaged for application directly to cut stumps, without further dilution.