

MANAGEMENT OF MULTIFLORA ROSE IN WEST VIRGINIA WITH GRAZING AND HERBICIDES. Rakesh S. Chandran and William B. Bryan. Associate Professor and Extension Weed Specialist, and Professor, Division of Plant and Soil Sciences and Extension Service – Agriculture and Natural Resources. West Virginia University, Morgantown, WV - 26506-6108.

Multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora* Thunb.) is a troublesome weed encountered commonly in the hilly pastures of West Virginia. It is also gaining notoriety among fruit growers as a difficult-to-control weed. All counties in the state have reported instances of this troublesome weed. Along with autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata* Thunb.), multiflora rose is difficult to manage using conventional control strategies. Past studies have evaluated either sheep or goat in comparison to 2,4-D + triclopyr (Crossbow) to manage multiflora rose under power-line right of way. Goats reduced brush cover from 45% to 15% in 1 yr, while sheep took 3 yr to accomplish the same results. Cutting the brush helped grazing effectiveness, especially that of sheep. Costs incurred towards brush management was significantly lower when goats were used compared to other methods over the 5-yr period of the study. In a separate study, bushes were either clipped at 7.5 cm above soil or stripped at soil level mechanically at 2- or 4-wk intervals to evaluate regrowth. Stripped plants were killed after a 2-yr period while the clipped ones survived for 57 wk or more. Studies were also established in summer of 2006 determine the effectiveness of newer pasture herbicides like picloram+2,4-D (Grazon P+D), diflufenzopyr+dicamba (Overdrive), and aminopyralid+2,4-D (Forefront R&P) to control multiflora rose. All herbicides were determined to be effective (>80% control) when applied at labeled rates along with 0.5% methylated seed oil (MSO) at 1 mo after application. Regrowth will be assessed in 2007. A cost-share program involving small ruminants to manage and utilize pasture brushes was funded by Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in 2006. The project, which has a marketing component included, will involve 30 new growers to adopt and evaluate and these goat and/or sheep to reduce brush load in their pastures.