

Multiflora rose

Rosa multiflora L.

Family: Rosaceae (Rose family)

Life cycle: Perennial, reproducing by seed and rooting of tips of canes that touch the ground (layering).

Habitat: Pastures, openings in wooded areas

General description: Perennial shrub with arching canes reaching heights of 5 to 10 ft. Leaves divided into five to eleven toothed leaflets, stipule at base of petiole resembles a fringe of hairs. Flowers are white, $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ in wide and produced in early June. Fruit are red, $\frac{1}{4}$ in in diameter and often remain on canes throughout winter.

Key ID traits: The fringed stipule on the base of the leaf petioles distinguishes multiflora rose from other native *Rosa* species.

Similar species: The wild prairie rose (*Rosa pratincola*) is the state flower of Iowa. It is much smaller than multiflora rose (less than 2 ft tall) and lacks the hairy stipules.

Miscellaneous: Introduced to the U.S. as an ornamental and promoted for use as a living fence. Rose rosette disease has reduced the severity of infestations in the state, but usually only affects plants in full sun. Believed to be caused by a virus, it causes formation of witch's brooms and red stems and foliage.



Hairy stipule on leaf petiole.



Rose infected with rose rosette disease

