

Mile-a-minute Weed

Persicaria perfoliata

previously *Polygonum perfoliatum*



Annual herbaceous trailing vine.

Common in all three counties.

Trailing vine that vigorously climbs into canopy. Inconspicuous white flowers bloom early July to fall. Spherical pea-sized, blue fruit containing several seeds ripen from early August to fall.

Does not tolerate shading. Colonizes open and disturbed areas along the edges of woods, wetlands, stream banks, roadsides, and uncultivated open fields.

Seeds can remain viable in the soil for at least two years.

Mile-a-minute Weed - Control Methods

Hand Pulling – Can be effective for young plants. Stems are armed with sharp recurved thorns, so care should be taken to avoid injury. Entire root system must be removed to avoid resprouts.

April - July

Cutting or mowing – Prior to flowering will reduce seed source. Site should be monitored to insure no plants flower and produce seed.

April - October

Foliar Spray – a 2% solution of Glyphosate with a 0.5% non-ionic surfactant may be effective for large infestations prior to fruit formation, where non-target damage of desirable native vegetation is unlikely.

Late July – Early August

Pre-emergent – the preemergent herbicides may be effective in upland sites where native vegetation is being entirely replaced.

March

Biological Control – field trials using a beetle are currently underway and may provide additional control options for this species in the near future.