

# Winter is time to attack multiflora rose

CHICAGO - The winter months offer farmers the best opportunity to control multiflora rose, a fast spreading woody briar that is a noxious weed problem in Mid-western and Northeastern states.

Treating dormant multiflora rose bushes in January, February or March provides excellent control and virtually eliminates chances of any potential drift problems on susceptible crops.

"This is also the time of year when farmers are less pressured by crops, so they can afford to spend some time planning and treating," says Charles B. Sperow, Jr., Extension Agronomist at West Virginia University.

A new label, recently approved by the Environmental Protection Agency, allows farmers to make dormant applications of Banvel herbicide January through April. The Banvel dormant applications are economical, easy to apply and offer consistent control.

### Widespread problem

The multiflora rose bush was promoted by USDA in the 1930's to control erosion and provide wildlife cover. It soon took over hilly pasture land in many areas as birds spread seeds.

States that have identified multiflora rose as a serious problem include: West Virginia, Ohio, Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, Kentucky, Missouri, Iowa, Indiana and Wisconsin. Many other states also have infestations of the bushes. Some states have had to declare multiflora rose a noxious weed and landowners are now required by law to control the bush.

Chemicals have proven to be the only way to effectively treat multiflora rose, according to Dr. Hale Fletchall, Professor of

Agronomy, University of Missouri. "Multiflora rose has been a severe weed problem that's been increasing in Missouri for 30 years. It's most severe in pastures and wastelands," he notes.

There are currently three methods of chemical control: dormant applications such as spot concentrate and lo-oil basal bark, summer treatments with pellets and foliar applications made while the plants are actively growing.

West Virginia's Sperow says there are several treatments for multiflora rose. At this time of the year, he suggests winter pasture treatment by spot concentrate applications directly on the bare ground around the base of scattered bushes. Banvel is the only product that can be applied while plants are dormant. "Dormant applications of Banvel work well," he says.

Follow up treatments require a fraction (5-10 percent) of the chemical used in the initial treatment and should be done with lo-oil basal bark treatments for best results, says Sperow.

"The first treatment is the most expensive, and the follow ups are the most important," this agronomist says. He gives this example: growers who purchase 5 gallons in year one for initial treatment should purchase 5 gallons the following year, using 1/2 gallon for retreatment and 4 1/2 gallons for initial treatment of another pasture.

### Dormant applications

To prevent dormant plants from growing in the spring, use spot concentrate application where bushes are scattered. The following year, a lo-oil basal bark treatment or another spot concentrate application will eliminate

any plants that escaped the first treatment.

Since spot concentrate applications require no mixing, metered spray guns can be attached directly to Banvel containers to ensure accurate dosage. Spray Banvel directly on the soil within 6 to 8 inches of the plant crown. On sloping terrain, place the Banvel uphill from the crown. Banvel is absorbed by the roots and translocated through the entire plant for complete kill.

The second dormant application, lo-oil basal bark, is suitable when a large infestation is present, for example, a hedgerow. In this instance, use Banvel herbicide with water, oil and an emulsifier in a backpack sprayer or 55 gallon tank sprayer.

Spray the basal stem region 18 to 20 inches above the ground, being sure to thoroughly wet the entire crown for good control. The lo-oil basal bark method requires 30 gallons of solution to treat one acre and is also effective as a follow up treatment.

Where a dense infestation occurs, a foliar treatment brings bushes under control. Make foliar applications May through August while plants are actively growing. Wet the leaves, stems and crowns thoroughly until run-off occurs. This treatment requires 200 gallons of solution (herbicide, water and surfactant) per acre.

Dead bushes are best left in fields for cattle to break down as they graze grass which begins to grow under bushes. "Dead bushes also make follow up treatment locations easy to identify," explains Sperow.

"February and March offer the best weather for treatments of scattered multiflora rose bushes,"

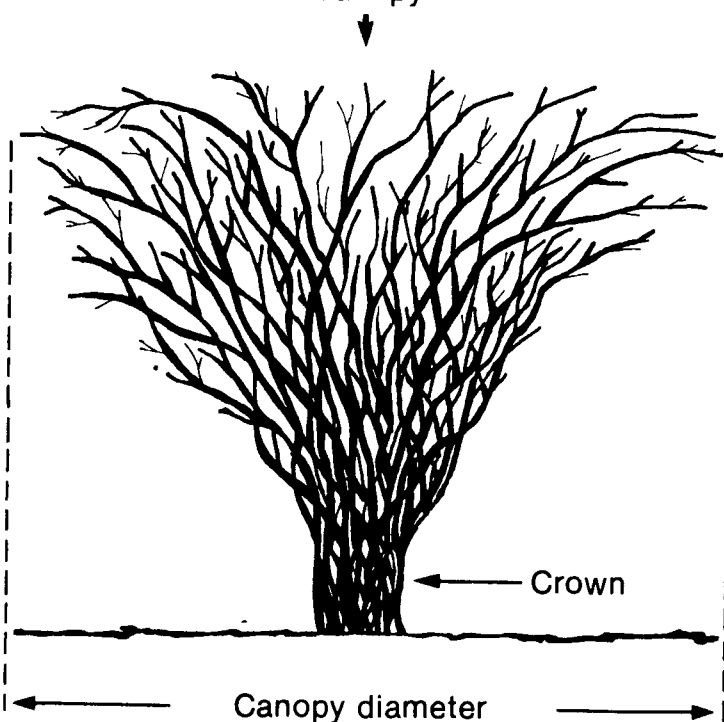
he notes. It takes more than scattered treatment to control the weed, however. "The farmers who successfully control multiflora rose have a consistent treatment plan set forth for at least 3 years," Sperow says.

One herbicide application won't control it. Retreatment is a must, Sperow stresses. "Multiflora rose is here forever. It's a problem that requires long term management

Planning a complete treatment program is the first, and most important step in control," he says.

An illustrated brochure called "Control of Multiflora rose" details application methods and rates. It is available free of charge by writing to Velsicol Chemical Corporation, 341 E. Ohio St., Chicago, Ill., 60611.

Dormant Multiflora rose bush  
Canopy



Spot concentrate applications are made directly on the bare ground around the base of scattered bushes.

The entire crown is covered with spray solution 18 to 20 inches above the ground in a lo-oil basal bark application.

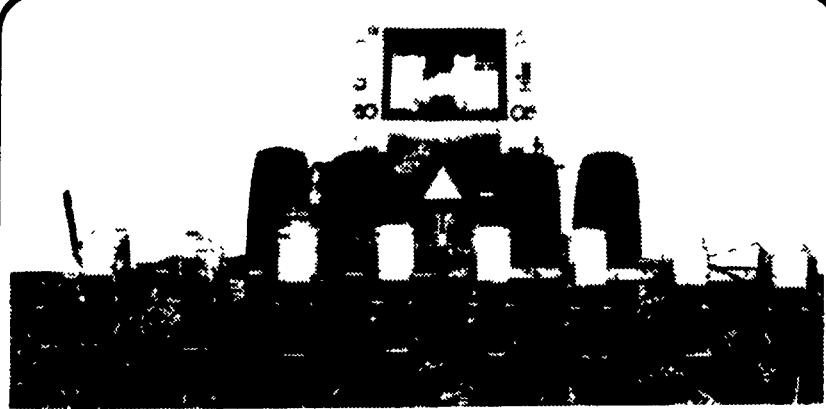
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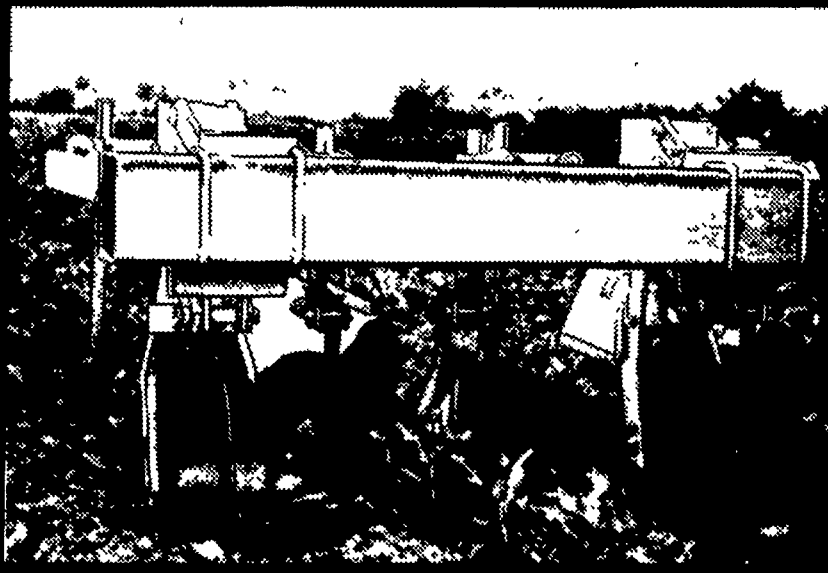
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