

What grows faster than a speeding bullet and smothers trees and shrubs?

The Culprit: Mile-A-Minute (*Persicaria perfoliata*)



Mile-a-minute invades open and disturbed areas, such as fields, forest edges, stream banks, wetlands, roadsides and wetlands.

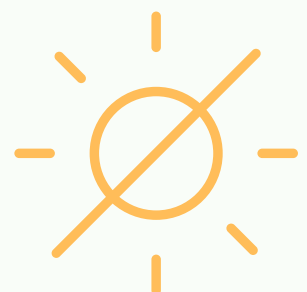
Mile-a-minute was introduced to the United States in the 1930s when it hitchhiked along with rhododendrons shipped from Japan to Pennsylvania.

Now we know =>

Vines can reach 25 feet into tree tops in a single growing season and decrease native vegetation.

Why It's a Problem

- Grows rapidly, up to 6 inches a day
- Dense foliage blocks sunlight to other plants
- Outcompetes tree seedlings



What Does It Look Like?



Leaves are 3 inches long, triangle shaped, and green.



Tiny, sharp, downward curved barbs line the veins on the backs of the leaves and on the stems. Fruits ripen to bright blue in color.



5

Clusters of tiny white flowers begin forming in June.



6

Rapidly growing annual vine. Can reach 25 feet
into the tree tops.

How Do I Control It?

- Can be easily hand pulled, because it has shallow, fibrous roots.
- Foliar herbicide treatment is best suited before it sets seed, usually before the end of June.



When hand pulling mile-a-minute, wear protective clothing and gloves to avoid being stabbed by the thorns.

Additional Information

Blue Ridge PRISM

-- [Mile a Minute Fact Sheet](#)

-- [Resources on Invasive Plants](#)



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6. Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org
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