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Rosa Multiflora
The Weed We Hate To Love!



Page 6

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Yellow Nutsedge, Another Pain in the Grass?

By Vinnie Drzewucki,

Senior Lifetime CNLP, ISA Certified Arborist and CCE Nassau Horticulture and Urban Forestry Educator

Now that summer is here and temperatures are rising, a new assortment of seasonal weeds begin to appear in lawns and landscapes. Found throughout North America, yellow nutsedge is considered to be one of the world's worst agricultural weeds; it is problematic in a wide range of crops, especially in lawns and landscapes throughout our area. In addition, it is not well controlled by some common herbicides, and is allelopathic. YIKES! Sounds like a horror movie.

Allelopathy is a biological phenomenon by which an organism, in this case a plant, the Yellow Nutsedge, produces one or more biochemicals that inhibit the germination, growth, survival, and reproduction of plants around it. Another common plant in landscapes that does this is Black Walnut trees, so if plants are not growing or doing well around your Black Walnut, or the grass around Yellow Nutsedge is thinned out and not growing, blame allelopathy. This is why managing Yellow Nutsedge can drive a turf care professional and homeowners "nutty" when it appears in a lawn.



Vinnie Drzewucki
Cornell Cooperative Extension of
Nassau County
Senior CNLP & Certified
Arborist

Identifying Characteristics

Yellow Nutsedge is known by a few other common names like nut-grass, nut sedge, chufa, tiger-nut, northern nut-grass and earth almond as well as its scientific name, *Cyperus esculentus*. It is considered a weed (a plant not wanted) when found growing in lawns and landscapes. While

its grassy-like leaves look similar to turfgrasses, it grows grass faster than turfgrass in summer heat, often annoyingly noticeable (for turfgrass perfectionists) a couple of days after mowing. It is a perennial, has triangular 3-sided stems, a key identifying characteristic you can determine by rolling a stem between your thumb and forefinger, grass stems are mainly flat and 2-sided or round. Underground, besides roots, there are subterranean modified plant stems called rhizomes just below the soil surface with multiple small brown tubers (sometimes called nutlets) along and at the ends of the rhizomes.

New plants grow from tubers, the primary way it reproduces. This is the reason why

pulling out the plants does not work as a control for eradicating Yellow Nutsedge, this only stimulates the half dozen or more underground tubers around each plant to grow and appear as new plants a few days later where you only had one plant and plucked it out. It also produces yellow flowers and seeds if not mowed (in landscape beds if ignored). One plant can produce 2,400 to hundreds of thousands of seeds in a growing season, contaminating nearby lawns, landscape beds, piles of mulch, topsoil, sand, etc. This is why it seems to magically show up unexpectedly anywhere and everywhere. It also prefers and thrives in wet soil locations and where irrigation is excessive, in sun or shade.

Management Success with Herbicides

Weed resistance to certain active ingredients may be encountered. Management success requires that you read and follow label directions. Some labels indicate suppression of growth. Multiple and annual applications or additional adjuvants may be required for increased effectiveness or eradication for some products.

Go to <https://turfweeds.cals.cornell.edu/plant/yellow-nutsedge> for lists of Conventional and Minimum Risk Herbicide active ingredients for Yellow

(article and photos continued on Page 14)

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Rosa Multiflora...The Weed We Hate To Love

Este artículo está impreso en inglés y español.

Early to mid June you'll see it just about everywhere, The cascading white flowers against a background of forest green. The fragrant tendrils stretching out for the nearest object. Stand still long enough and I'd swear it could wrap around your leg before you even know it's there because it is so fast growing.

It is extremely invasive and after the fragrant flowers fade it is nasty. Removing by mechanical means inevitably invite gashes and punctures on your arms and legs whether or not you wear protective clothing.

We consulted with ChatGPT once again to obtain some relevant information to share with our readers and have included some photos to illustrate how nature deals with this invasive but beautiful (at

times) weed.

This month, with the help of AI, we are initiating a Spanish translation of this article for the benefit of those Hispanic readers who may be missing out on some informative articles. We'd love to hear some feedback to see if this is a feature of this newspaper that should continue in future editions. Please let us know; Rosa Multiflora: Invasive Beauty and Methods of Control

Rosa multiflora, commonly known as multiflora rose, is a vigorous, deciduous shrub native to eastern Asia. Originally introduced to North America in the 19th century as a rootstock for ornamental roses and later promoted for erosion control and wildlife habitat, it has since become a notorious invasive species.

Its rapid spread and aggressive growth habits have made it a significant ecological concern across much of the United States.

Multiflora rose is easily recognized by its arching canes, pinnately compound leaves with 5–11 leaflets, and clusters of small, fragrant white or pinkish flowers that bloom in late spring. These flowers give way to small red hips in the fall, which are spread by birds and other animals. The plant thrives in a variety of environments, including pastures, roadsides, forest edges, and disturbed areas. Its ability to form dense, impenetrable thickets allows it to outcompete native vegetation, disrupt ecosystems, and reduce biodiversity.

One of the key reasons for its invasive

success is its prolific seed production. A single plant can produce hundreds of thousands of seeds per year, which remain viable in the soil for up to 20 years. In addition to seed dispersal, it also reproduces vegetatively through layering—where canes touching the ground take root and form new plants. These traits make control particularly challenging, requiring persistent and integrated management approaches.

Methods of Control

Mechanical Control



Infestation of Aphids (above, highlighted in white border) is one way nature takes care of the problem, while a future Ladybug (pictured below) is Nature's way of taking care of the Aphids!

Physical removal is often the first step in managing multiflora rose. Cutting the plant back to the base or digging it out entirely can be effective for small infestations. However, cutting alone usually stimulates vigorous regrowth unless followed by other treatments. Repeated mowing or cutting several times during the growing season (especially before flowering and seed set) can weaken and eventually kill the plant over time.

Chemical Control

Herbicides are commonly used in conjunction with mechanical methods. Sys-



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From the Publisher's Desk....

Jerry Siani, Editor and Publisher

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Paul Sachs

of North Country Organics will be answering reader's questions on soil and organic matters. Got a question? Write to Paul, c/o NY LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR, or call him at North Country Organics, (802) 222-4277 email pds@norganics.com



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graduated from Clemson University with a B.S. in turfgrass management and a Ph.D in Plant and Environmental Science in 2007 and 2012, respectively. While a graduate student at Clemson, Nick focused on improving foliar fertilization efficiency and turfgrass physiology. Nick began teaching at Farmingdale State College in the fall of 2014 where he continues to educate students about turfgrass best management practices. He can be reached at nicholas.menchyk@farmingdale.edu



Roger Feit

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Creator of Quality Tree Service, and now of Treewise, The Organic Experts, offers insights on how small businesses can become more profitable and easier to operate. A former USA national amateur surfing champion, he has been featured in the NY Times, ABC TV News, Channel 55 and local news & radio programs (631) 324-4239



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Q. Lawns that I care for look great in the spring but when the hot summers days arrive their appearance is unacceptable to many of my customers. Is there anything I can do?

A. Every spring some of us get a false sense of financial stability—until we realize that Uncle Sam hasn't been paid yet. That same feeling of euphoria, followed by frustration, comes when the beautiful spring lawns we've worked on so hard get hammered by summer heat and drought. The stress from high temperatures and low levels of moisture can change a thick, healthy turf into a lawn peppered with problems.

The turf's ability to compete with weeds, resist disease, and recover from insect damage are all but gone in just a few short weeks. Aside from irrigation, it seems as though there is no recourse except to stand by and watch its demise.

Fortunately, there are a few things we can do to combat the summer's impairment of a lawn. First and foremost is raising the height of the mower. Tall grass can shade the soil more, significantly reducing the amount of heat the soil absorbs from the sun and the amount of moisture evaporated from the soil surface. Taller plants grow much deeper roots which have both better access to water and improved

storage capabilities. Water use is actually increased slightly from the greater amount of leaf surface area of taller plants. The physical process of evapotranspiration of moisture through the leaves, however, can cool the ambient temperature by 7-14 degrees (F). The longer the grass can stay green, the longer the cooling mechanism can remain working. But make sure the lawn is not growing in compacted soil. No matter how high you cut the grass, its roots will not penetrate very deep into the soil if it's compacted.

VAM is an acronym for Vesicular Arbuscular Mycorrhizae. This is a family of beneficial fungi that attach themselves to the roots of perennial plants and reach into the soil's depths for moisture and mineral nutrients. They exchange these with the plant for a small amount of photosynthesized carbohydrate. This symbiotic relationship exists in over eighty percent of all grass species, and can increase the plants' heat and drought resistance significantly. Unfortunately, if fungicides are introduced into a lawn, that relationship may be compromised or eliminated. Combating disease with well aged compost or a program of building soil organic matter using natural organic fertilizers will not only provide long term disease protection, but will also encourage the useful relationships VAM's have with turf. Additionally, anything we do that improves the quantity

and quality of our soil organic matter will improve the water holding capacity of the soil and the drought resistance of plants growing in it.

Another non-action we can take is to stop bagging grass clippings. Clippings returned to a lawn can provide several benefits. Between the time that they fall and decompose, they act as a temporary mulch that can lower the soil surface temperature. As moisture evaporates from the fallen clippings, the surrounding air is cooled and stress from heat is further mitigated. Clippings encourage earthworm activity, which not

only increases the water holding capacity of the soil but, at the same time, reduces thatch. Thatch can decrease a lawn's resistance to drought conditions because it holds very little moisture and encourages shallow rooting of plants. Pesticides that suppress earthworms are also hurting the



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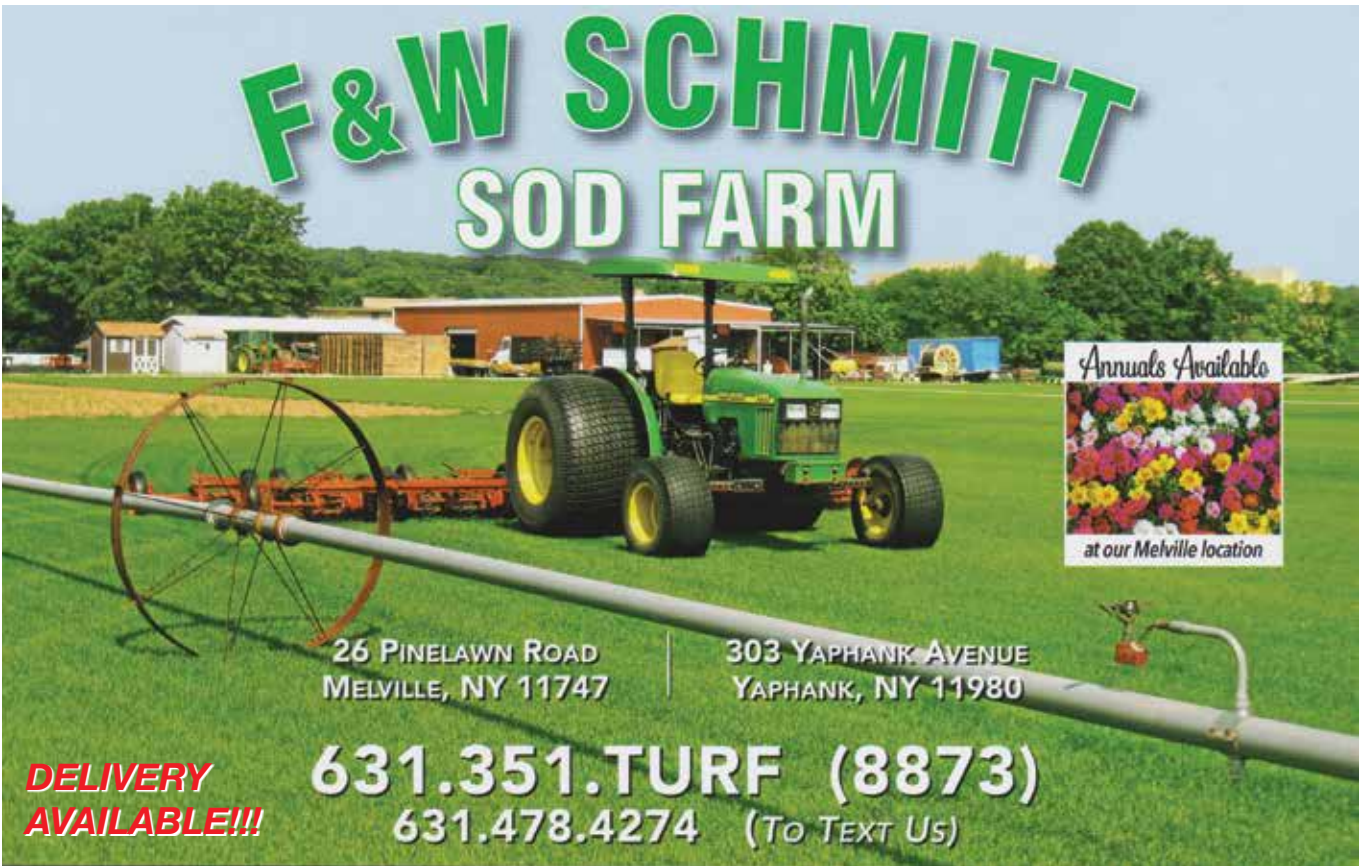
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10 Tips for Safer Generator Usage This Summer:

Follow manufacturer's instructions and ensure proper ventilation, says OPEI

Generators are critical during severe weather events, when the power can go out. They can bring power to remote job sites, aid in disaster recovery and assist homeowners in emergencies. During hurricane season, the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI), an international trade association representing power equipment, small engine, utility vehicle, golf car and personal transport vehicle manufacturers and suppliers, reminds home and business owners to keep safety in mind when using generators.

"Not having power when you need it is frustrating, so a generator can provide emergency backup power at a reasonable cost," says Kris Kiser, President and CEO of OPEI. "It's important to follow all manufacturer's instructions, and never place a generator in your garage or inside your home or building. It should be a safe distance from the structure and not near an air intake."

Additional tips are below.

Kind Regards,
Debbi Mayster
On Behalf of OPEI
240.988.6243

10 Tips for Safer Generator Usage This Summer:

Follow manufacturer's instructions and ensure proper ventilation, says OPEI

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#1 - Take stock of your generator. Make sure equipment is in good working order before starting and using it. Do this before a storm hits.

#2 - Review the directions. Follow all manufacturer's instructions. Review the owner's manuals (look manuals up online if you cannot find them) so equipment is operated safely.

#3 - Install a battery-operated carbon monoxide detector in your home. This alarm will sound if dangerous levels of carbon monoxide enter the building.

#4 - Have the right fuel on hand. Use the type of fuel recommended by the generator manufacturer to protect this important investment. It is illegal to use any fuel with more than 10% ethanol in outdoor power equipment. (For more information on proper fueling for outdoor power equipment visit <https://www.opei.org/programs/ethanolwarning/>.) It's best to use fresh fuel, but if you are using fuel that has been sitting in a gas can for more than 30 days, add fuel stabilizer to it. Store gas only in an approved container

and away from heat sources.

#5 - Ensure portable generators have plenty of ventilation. Generators should NEVER be used in an enclosed area or placed inside a home, a building, or a garage, even if the windows or doors are open. Place the generator outside and away from windows, doors, and vents that could allow carbon monoxide to drift indoors.

#6 - Keep the generator dry. Do not use a generator in wet conditions. Cover and vent a generator. Model-specific tents or generator covers can be found online for purchase and at home centers and hard-

ware stores.

#7 - Only add fuel to a cool generator. Before refueling, turn the generator off and let it cool down.

#8 - Plug in safely. If you don't yet have a transfer switch, you can use the outlets on the generator. It's best to plug in appliances directly to the generator. If you must use an extension cord, it should be heavy-duty and designed for outdoor use. It should be rated (in watts or amps) at least equal to the sum of the connected appliance loads. Make sure the cord is free of cuts, and the plug has all three prongs.



(continued on Page 26)

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Yellow Nutsedge, Another Pain in the Grass?



Nutsedge Control.

In limited areas digging out plants, rhizomes and tubers is tedious but often effective, from my experience.

What is Yellow Nutsedge Good For?

While considered a persistent weed in turfgrass,

landscapes and agricultural fields in our area, Yellow Nutsedge (also known as chufa or tiger nut, *Cyperus esculentus*) has a surprising number of beneficial uses elsewhere, primarily due to its edible tubers. It's a valuable food source in many parts of the world and offers several nutritional and even medicinal properties. Note: Do not consume any plants treated with a pesticide or without consulting with your healthcare professional first!

Here's what yellow nutsedge is good for:

1. Food Source (Edible Tubers):

Direct Consumption: The tubers can be eaten raw, boiled, roasted, or ground into flour. They have a slightly sweet, nutty flavor.

Beverages: One of its most famous uses is in horchata de chufa, a refreshing milky drink popular in Spain and other regions. **Flour:** The tubers can be ground into a gluten-free flour, suitable for baking.

Snacks and Desserts: Chufa tubers are used to make sweet treats, cookies, and even ice cream.

Oil Production: The tubers are rich in oil, similar in composition and nutritional value to olive oil, with high levels of monounsaturated fatty acids (especially oleic acid). This oil can be used for cooking or other applications.

Coffee Substitute: It can be roasted and ground to make a coffee substitute.

2. Nutritional Value: Yellow nutsedge tubers are highly nutritious, containing:

Fiber: Excellent source of dietary fiber, which aids digestion, promotes gut health, and may help prevent colon cancer, obesity, and gastrointestinal disorders.

Healthy Fats: Rich in monounsaturated fatty acids, similar to those found in olive oil, which are beneficial for heart health and can help lower cholesterol.

Vitamins: Good source of vitamins, including Vitamin C, Vitamin E (antioxidant), Vitamin D, and B vitamins (especially B1). **Minerals:** Packed with essential minerals like iron, potassium, magnesium, phosphorus, zinc, and calcium.

Antioxidants: Contains flavonoids and other compounds with strong antioxidant properties, which help protect cells from damage and may reduce the risk of chronic diseases.

Protein: While not a primary protein source, it does contain some protein, including essential amino acids.

Resistant Starch: Contains resistant starch, which acts as a prebiotic, feeding beneficial gut bacteria.

3. Medicinal and Health Benefits (Traditional and Emerging Research):

Digestive Aid: Traditionally used to treat indigestion, diarrhea, dysentery, gas, and constipation due

to its fiber content and digestive enzymes.

Anti-inflammatory and Antimicrobial Properties: Extracts from the plant have shown anti-inflammatory and antibacterial activities. **Cardiovascular Health:** The high oleic acid content can help lower cholesterol levels and may contribute to preventing heart disease and thrombosis.

Blood Sugar Regulation: May be suitable for diabetic patients due to its fiber and carbohydrate profile.

Immune Support: Vitamins and antioxidants help boost the immune system.

Aphrodisiac: In some traditional medicine systems, it's believed to have aphrodisiac qualities. **Liver Tonic:** Historically used as a liver tonic and for stomach pain.

4. Animal Forage:

Wildlife Food Source: In the United States, yellow nutsedge tubers are an important food source for wildlife, particularly deer, wild turkeys, and waterfowl. **Livestock Feed:** Historically, it was used to feed hogs and cattle.

5. Ecological Uses:

Wetland Restoration and Erosion Control: Chufa is sometimes used in seed mixes for wetland restoration, mitigation, and erosion control.

Despite its beneficial uses, it's important to remember that yellow nutsedge is a tenacious weed that can be difficult to control in turfgrass and landscapes due to its prolific tuber production. However, recognizing its value as a food and health crop highlights its diverse and often overlooked potential.

Sources: Cornell CALS School of Integrated Plant Science Horticulture Section Turfgrass and Landscape Weed ID at <https://turfweeds.cals.cornell.edu/plants> Cornell Weed Identification-Yellow Nutsedge at <https://blogs.cornell.edu/weedid/yellow-nutsedge/>



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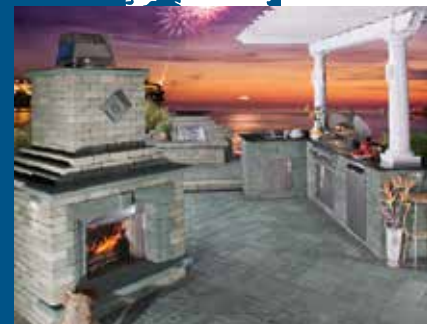


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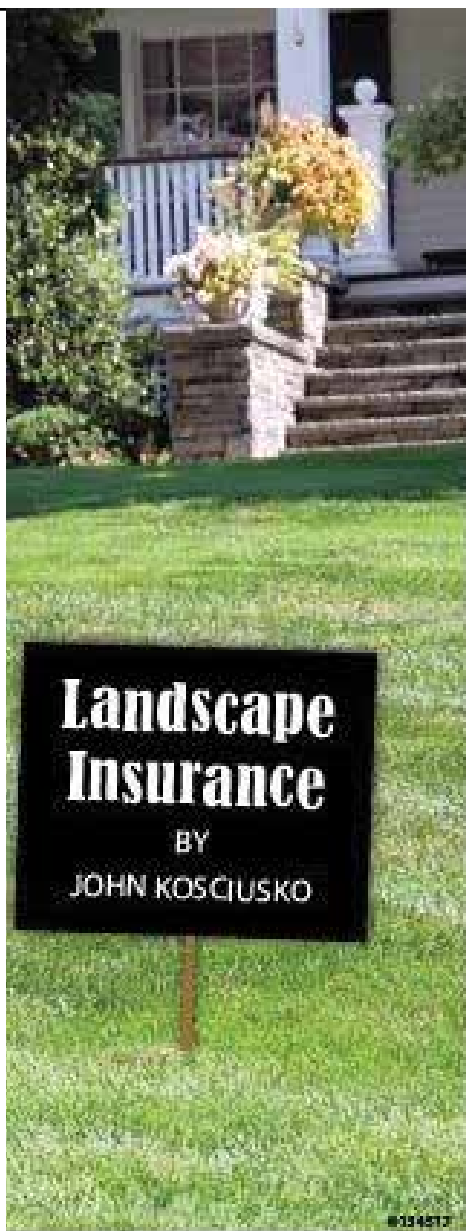
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tively transporting nutrients to its roots. Foliar spraying may be used for large infestations, but care must be taken to avoid damage to desirable species. Spot

treatment is generally more environmentally responsible and cost-effective.

Biological Control

Several biological controls have been investigated, though none provide complete eradication. The rose rosette disease, caused by a virus and spread by the eriophyid mite (*Phyllocoptes fructiphilus*), can kill multiflora rose plants over time. However, this disease also affects ornamental roses, limiting its usefulness. Grazing by goats has also shown promise in reducing multiflora rose density, particularly in areas where other control methods are impractical.

Cultural and Preventive Measures

Preventing the spread of multiflora rose is key. Avoid planting it intentionally and remove it early when new plants are detected. Restoring native vegetation after removal can help prevent reestablishment. Monitoring and follow-up are critical, as even small remnants can regenerate and restart infestations.

In conclusion, Rosa multiflora is a classic example of an introduced species gone awry. While its flowers may add brief beauty to the landscape, its ecological cost far outweighs its aesthetic value. Through integrated management and vigilance, landowners and conservationists can work together to curb its spread and restore native habitats.

El artículo continúa en la página siguiente en español.



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Rosa multiflora: una planta invasora y su control

La Rosa multiflora es una especie de rosa originaria del este de Asia, concretamente de China, Japón y Corea. Fue introducida en muchos países, incluidos Estados Unidos y varias regiones de Europa, como planta ornamental, para controlar la erosión del suelo o como seto vivo para delimitar terrenos. Sin embargo, con el paso del tiempo, esta especie ha demostrado ser altamente invasora, desplazando a la vegetación nativa y alterando ecosistemas enteros.

La Rosa multiflora es un arbusto caducifolio que puede alcanzar hasta 5 metros de altura. Presenta tallos arqueados cubiertos de espinas y hojas compuestas por 5 a 11 folíolos. Sus flores, pequeñas y blancas, florecen en grandes racimos durante la primavera. Posteriormente, produce numerosos escaramujos (frutos rojos) que contienen semillas viables que son fácilmente diseminadas por aves y mamíferos.

Uno de los principales problemas con Rosa multiflora es su capacidad para formar densas masas impenetrables, que impiden el crecimiento de plantas autóctonas. Además, puede alterar la dinámica del suelo y afectar negativamente a especies de fauna local. Por estas razones, está clasificada como una especie invasora en muchas regiones.

Métodos de control

Controlar la Rosa multiflora requiere un enfoque integrado, ya que es resistente y puede rebrotar fácilmente tras ser cortada. A continuación, se describen los métodos más comunes:

Control mecánico: Consiste en cortar o arrancar manualmente las plantas. Aunque es eficaz en infestaciones pequeñas, requiere constancia, ya que la planta puede rebrotar desde las raíces. Es importante remover todo el sistema radicular, especialmente en plantas jóvenes.

Control químico: Se utilizan herbicidas sistémicos como el glifosato o el triclopir. Estos se aplican en los tallos recién cortados o directamente sobre el follaje. Este método debe realizarse con precaución para evitar impactos negativos en otras especies vegetales.

Control biológico: En algunos países, se ha investigado el uso de organismos naturales para controlar esta especie. Un ejemplo es el virus de la roseta de la rosa (Rose Rosette Disease), que puede debilitar e incluso matar a Rosa multiflora, aunque también puede afectar a rosales ornamentales.

Control cultural y preventivo: Evitar plantar esta especie y educar al público sobre su impacto ecológico es fundamental. La restauración con especies nativas después del control es esencial para prevenir la recolonización.

Conclusión

La Rosa multiflora es un claro ejemplo de cómo una planta introducida con fines aparentemente beneficiosos puede convertirse en una amenaza ecológica. Su control exige esfuerzo sostenido, conocimiento del ecosistema afectado y, preferentemente, la integración de varios métodos de manejo. La prevención sigue siendo la herramienta más eficaz: evitar su plantación y promover la vegetación autóctona es clave para proteger la biodiversidad.

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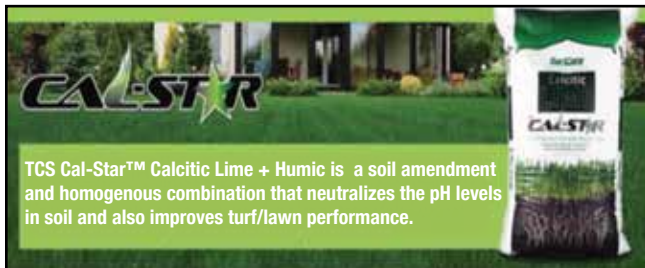


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drought resistance of a lawn. Clippings can produce allelochemicals as they decompose. Some researchers believe that these allelochemicals suppress crabgrass germination. The nitrogen inherent in clippings is a perfect slow release fertilizer that can help grass stay vital during stressful periods. Clippings left behind have also shown disease suppressive properties which can offer some protection during a time of year when plants are more susceptible to infection.

Be on the lookout for heat tolerant cool season grasses. Researchers have discovered that certain varieties of perennial ryegrass exhibit more competitive behavior during periods of high temperatures. Isolating these strains for breeding is sure to follow.

Irrigation, if available, is the ultimate treatment for stress caused by heat and drought. The misuse of this tool, however, can do more harm than good. Researchers disagree on the ideal frequency and duration of irrigation. Some believe that deep and infrequent watering is best, while others feel that high frequency, low volume irrigation is optimum. Very little research has been done on irrigation frequency and volume and the small amount of data available suggests that light watering (one tenth of an inch) on a daily basis is best for relieving heat and drought stress. But, that only addresses heat stress, and not always water needs. Most of a light application of water evaporates and doesn't seep down

far enough into the soil. To replace water lost during prolonged drought, an inch of water applied weekly is typically warranted. Common sense dictates, however, that there is no ideal irrigation program that fits every situation. Under certain conditions, such as deep sandy soils with little water holding capacity, low volume, high frequency irrigation may be more ideal. But this may be inappropriate for heavy soils that do not dry out as quickly. Avoid irrigation during spring months unless absolutely necessary. Slightly drought-stress turf in spring sends roots deep into the cool soil in search of water. Those deeper roots will pay off later in the season.

Monitoring moisture levels with a moisture meter is a good idea, but the optimum amount of moisture varies in different types of soil. It is necessary to analyze the texture of a soil to determine the ideal amount of moisture it can hold. If a lawn care company works with many different types of soils in a given region, it may be expensive to do a texture analysis of each property's soil. This information, however, is very valuable.

Too much water from irrigation can cause more stress to turf than none at all. Waterlogged soil contains little or no oxygen, an essential element to plant roots. The stress from suffocating roots is just as detrimental as the stress caused by heat and/or drought. Over watering can result in the leaching of more nutrients, especially nitrates, than any other factor.

The loss of these essential minerals can not only stress the plant but also pollute ground water. If pesticides are used on a lawn, improper irrigation can carry toxins into the water supply. The EPA estimates that 10.4% of the community water system wells and 4.2% of rural domestic wells in the U.S. contain at least one pesticide or pesticide degradate at or above acceptable levels. This estimate comes from a study conducted between 1988 and 1990, where approximately 94,600 drinking water wells were sampled. Common sense irrigation is usually the most appropriate.

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outlet – is dangerous. You could hurt utility workers and neighbors served by the same transformer. Backfeeding bypasses built-in circuit protection devices, so you could damage your electronics or start an electrical fire.

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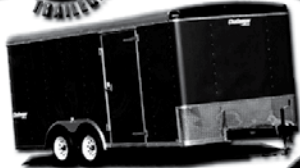


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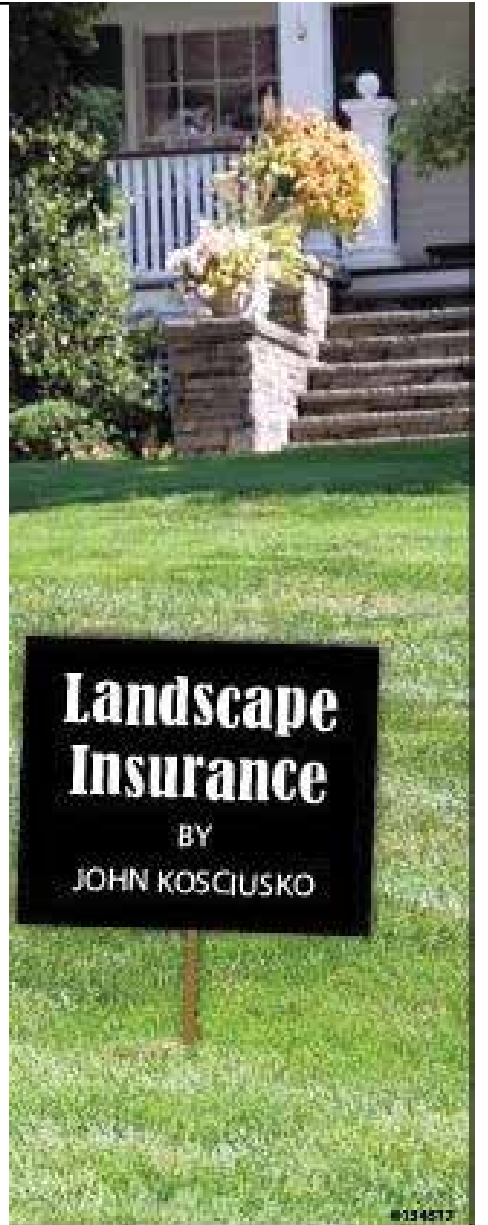
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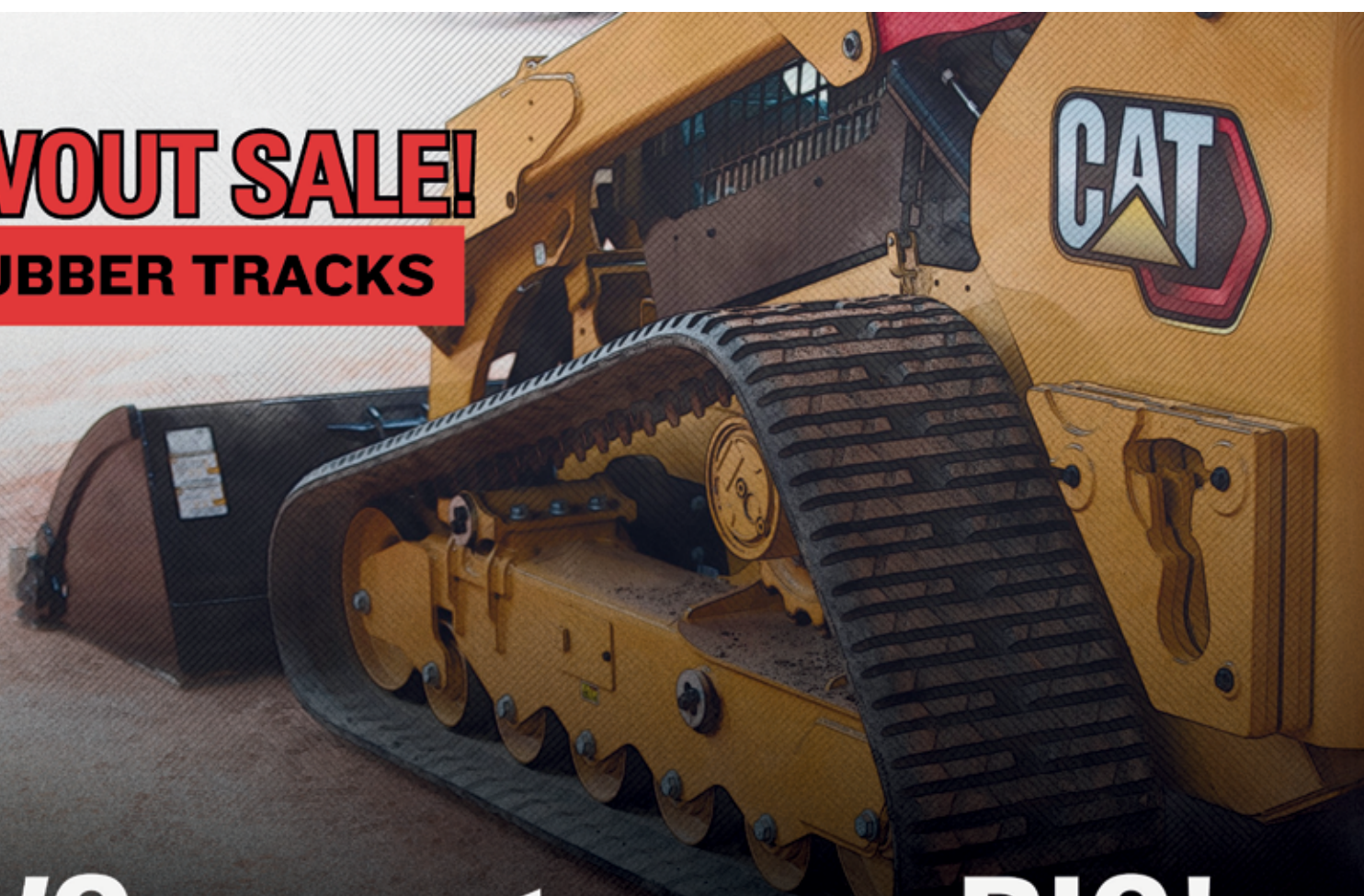


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