



# WNY PRISM

Partnering to Protect Western New York from Invasive Species

## Best Management Practices: Mile-a-Minute

Mile-a-minute (*Persicaria perfoliata*) is a fast spreading, annual, trailing vine most commonly found in disturbed open areas, streambanks, woodlands and forest edges. Triangular leaves are arranged alternately along slender stems which also have sharp, hooked thorns and cup-like leafy structures called ocreas.

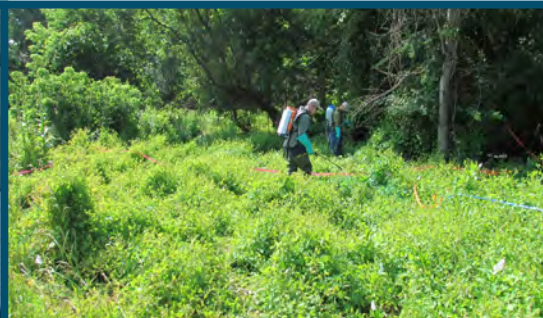
Mile-a-minute spreads by seed, which are primarily transported by people (boots, vehicles, equipment, mowers), but are also distributed by birds, ants and water. Flowers are small, greenish-white and difficult to see. The mature fruits, which appear in mid-late summer, are blue and easily spotted. Seed becomes viable early in development, when fruit are still green, so management activities should be planned for early in the growing season.

Mile-a-minute has staggered germination and seeds can remain viable in the soil for at least 6 years.

Large patches of mile-a-minute shade out native species, can prevent tree seedling development and covers other plants, weakening and damaging them. Mile-a-minute may grow up to 6 inches per day.

**Integrated Pest Management (IPM)** is an adaptive approach to invasive species management that involves the selection of multiple control methods and appropriate timing to meet the needs of each specific site and species. The goal is to maximize effective control and to minimize any potential negative impacts.

Management efforts should begin with an invasive species survey and site assessment. This allows for the development of a management plan and selection of appropriate removal methods. Management for most well-established species and/or infestations will require commitment over a number of years, often 3-5. Once initial control is achieved, restoration and continued monitoring will be required to maintain success.



## Best Management Practices: Mile-a-Minute (*Persicaria perfoliata*)

### Management

#### Manual

Individual plants and small infestations may be removed by hand prior to seed development. Berries appearing immature may contain viable seeds.

#### Mechanical

Mechanical methods such as well-timed mowing can be effective, but mowing can be difficult in certain areas and it is unlikely mowing alone will eliminate seed set.

#### Chemical

Systemic herbicides, such as glyphosate, can be very effective against mile-a-minute, especially when used with a surfactant. Applications should occur in the summer before the plant begins to develop fruit.

#### Spread Prevention

Clean mowers before and after use. Mow non-infested areas before those infested with mile-a-minute. Mow low to the ground and avoid mowing once seed begins to develop.

#### Disposal

Plant material should be disposed of in landfill-bound trash. Plant material may be bagged in black plastic and placed in the sun to solarize for no less than 3 weeks to ensure seed is less likely to remain viable.

#### Biocontrol

Biocontrol weevils are available and have been used successfully to reduce populations and limit spread. However, the bio-control agent will not eliminate the species and efforts should be paired with other management methods.

#### Restoration

There is always the chance that an invasive species will re-establish in an area after successful removal efforts. Annual monitoring and removal of individuals should maintain success and restoration of native vegetation will provide improved resilience against future invasion.

**USE PESTICIDES WISELY:** Always read the entire pesticide label carefully and follow all instructions. Pesticide regulations can vary widely between regions; please contact local authorities for additional pesticide use requirements, restrictions or recommendations. Mention of pesticide products by WNY PRISM does not constitute endorsement of any material.



**Photos Front:** Top- mile-a-minute leaf and barbs; Middle- berries; Bottom (left to right)- survey equipment, foliar spraying, and hand pulling (credit Katie Amatangelo).

**Photos Back:** mile-a-minute infestation, dead vines inset (credit Erica Mackey), characteristic barbs, and flower (credit Hannah Schuler). Photos credits are WNY PRISM unless otherwise stated.

### Additional Resources

New York Invasive Species Information Clearinghouse

[nyis.info/invasive\\_species/mile-a-minute/](http://nyis.info/invasive_species/mile-a-minute/)

New York Invasive Species Research Institute

[nyisri.org/research/biological-control/](http://nyisri.org/research/biological-control/)



PARTNERSHIP FOR REGIONAL  
**INVASIVE SPECIES  
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