



CAES

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MILE-A-MINUTE WEED (*Persicaria perfoliata*)

The mile-a-minute weed, also known as the mile-a-minute vine or Asiatic tearthumb, is an annual plant native to Asia. It is capable of growing up to 6 inches a day, and up to 33 feet a year, allowing it to suffocate native vegetation.

Mile-a-minute weed can be identified by its alternate leaves that are shaped like a triangle. Its stems are covered in tiny, hooked barbs, and it has a saucer-shaped stipules (ocrea) at the base of each leaf. It produces fruit that emerges green and ripens to a purple, then metallic blue color. Mile-a-minute reproduces by seed, which germinate in early April. The seeds can remain viable for at least six years. The plant can be spread by seed dispersal via animals such as birds and deer, which eat

the fruit. The fruit can also be dispersed by water movement.

Mile-a-minute colonizes wetlands, streambanks, and disturbed habitat such as fields, forest edges, and roadsides. To control this plant, hand-pulling is recommended for small populations. Gloves should be worn as protection from the barbs. Repeated cutting can also help reduce spread. With large populations, chemical control may be necessary. A specialist weevil (*Rhynoncomimus latipes*) that solely feeds upon mile-a-minute has been released in Connecticut for biological control of this plant.

Source:

https://ipm.cahnr.uconn.edu/invasive_plants_mile-a-minute/



Photo by Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



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