

Weed of The Week

2-8-2021

Wild Grape Vine (*Vitis spp.*)

Mid to late winter can be optimal times for timber harvest and timber stand evaluations, this week's weed of the week presents a major threat to overall forest health and can multiply rapidly after a recent timber harvest. Wild Grape Vine is native to a large portion of the eastern United States and very common in the Ohio River Valley. This species is very similar to its cultivated family members, preferring rich sandy textured soils along stream or river bottoms. Wild Grape Vine is a perennial vine that climb structures, fencing, and mainly trees. Vines will grow to very top of forest canopy to collect as much sunlight as possible, this hinders growth of other valuable tree species within the forest environment. The roots of Wild Grapes are very woody and will live a long time in the soil. The finger like stems will produce leaves are very broad allowing it to shade out its competition and climb whatever it gets ahold of. Reproduction is mainly from the grapes produced by the plant, birds and other wildlife will eat the grapes and distribute throughout the area. Wild Grape Vine can be controlled Successfully by mechanical removal of the roots (1'-2' deep) or by herbicide use. Chemical herbicides can be applied as foliar, basal bark, and or spot treatments. 2-4-D and Cross Bow have shown good results as basal bark or cutting the applying to the stump. Fosamine is very effective as a foliar spray.

