

Control

Ideal timing for treatment options

Spring	Summer	Fall	Winter
Hand-pull seedlings			
	Foliar spray (65-85°F)		
	Cut stump treatment (Above 40°F)		
Basal bark treatment			

For site specific recommendations, please contact your local Extension. **Review and follow product labels and avoid contact with non-target plants as these products may cause severe injury to plants.** At garden stores, there are commercial preparations available for some of the mixtures listed below. Control practices must continue until all Oriental bittersweet plants are killed. Re-sprouting and seedling emergence may continue for years.

Foliar spray for low growing plants, seedlings, and re-sprouting cut stumps	<p>Choose ONE of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2-3% triclopyr (Garlon 3A™), 0.5% non-ionic surfactant and water solution • 2% glyphosate (many trade names) and water solution <p>Spray herbicide mixture to thoroughly wet leaves, but not to the point of run-off.</p>
Cut stump treatment for large vines	<p>Choose ONE of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 20% triclopyr (Garlon 4™) and oil solution • 20-25% glyphosate (many trade names) and water solution <p>Immediately apply herbicide mixture to cut surface with a squirt bottle or sponge applicator.</p>
Basal bark treatment for large vines	<p>20% triclopyr (Garlon 4™) and bark oil solution</p> <p>Apply solution to dry vines in a 10-15" wide band around vine avoiding host trees.</p>

Reference to commercial products or trade names does not imply endorsement. Herbicide treatment options are based upon the Midwest Invasive Plant Network Control Database mipncontroldatabase.wisc.edu/

More information can be found at the following websites:

U.S. Forest Service
www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/vine/celorb/all.html

Minn Dept of Agriculture
www.mda.state.mn.us/plants/badplants/orientalbittersweet.aspx

BugwoodWiki
wiki.bugwood.org/Archive:MGIPSF/Celastrus_orbiculatus



In accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this information is available in alternative forms of communication upon request by calling 651-201-6000. TTY users can call the Minnesota Relay Service at 711. The MDA is an equal opportunity employer and provider.

Oriental Bittersweet



Oriental bittersweet, *Celastrus orbiculatus*, infestations overtake and destroy forests and grasslands by girdling and breaking trees and shading and smothering all plants. For the health and biodiversity of our forests and grasslands, it is important to find and eliminate Oriental bittersweet infestations.

Oriental Bittersweet

Background

Native to Asia, Oriental bittersweet was planted in North America as an ornamental for its attractive fall fruiting branches.

Unfortunately, it escaped cultivation and is severely damaging urban and natural forests and grasslands. Wildlife, especially birds, consume the fruit and move seeds to new locations. People collect the fruiting branches to make seasonal decorations resulting in additional seed dispersal.

Oriental bittersweet is so destructive that an increasing number of states are regulating it as a noxious weed: Connecticut, Iowa, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Vermont, and Wisconsin. Oriental bittersweet is considered a high priority invasive plant management issue in many additional states.



Oriental bittersweet vines overwhelm this tree

Description

Oriental bittersweet vines grow up to 66' long and have large root-systems that send up new shoots. The vines twine around trees and structures. The leaves change in color from green to yellow in the fall. Leaves are alternate and the shape varies from oblong to round. Plants are either male or female and flower in late spring. Fruit only develop on female plants. Fruits are round and change color from green to bright red with a yellow capsule (fruit cover that splits open when mature) in the fall. Flowers and fruit are arranged in clusters where the leaves attach to the vines.

Similar Native Vine

American bittersweet, *C. scandens*, is a closely related native vine. The species are distinguished by fruit (female plants) and flower placement (male and female plants) on the vines. Flowering and fruiting occur at the leaf axils of Oriental bittersweet plants versus the terminal ends of American bittersweet vines. Fruit capsule color is also a distinguishing factor. Oriental bittersweet has yellow fruit capsules and American has bright orange capsules.



Fall fruit of Oriental bittersweet (left) contrasted to American bittersweet (right).

1
Leaves



2
Summer
fruit



3
Fall
fruit



4
Infestation

