



INVASIVE PLANT OF THE MONTH

JANUARY 2021



Ohio State University

ORIENTAL BITTERSWEET

Celastrus orbiculatus

HISTORY & IDENTIFICATION

- introduced in the 1860s from east Asia for ornamental purposes
- It's a perennial, deciduous, woody vine
- Has yellow-skinned fruit which split to reveal a bright red center.

LIFE CYCLE & GROWTH HABIT

- It has broad round glossy leaves with fine teeth, 3-4" long and turns yellow in early fall.
- In May to June yellow-green flowers appear and mature to yellow-skinned fruit in August which splits later to reveal a bright red center.
- It spreads rapidly with underground roots and also by birds.
- It prefers full sun, tolerates dense shade and will seek sun by climbing and girdling nearby vegetation and forming a smothering blanket over the forest canopy.



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PREVENTION & MANAGEMENT

- Using the "window-cut" method cutting the vine in two places, at the ground and eye level is the first step.
- Do not remove by mowing.
- New shoots and regrowth should be treated with a foliar herbicide application after July 1st.
- All pulled plant material should be bagged and thrown out.

NATIVE ALTERNATIVES

American Bittersweet
(*Celastrus scandens*)

Virginia Creeper
(*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*)

Trumpet Honeysuckle
(*Lonicera sempervirens*)

IMPORTANT NOTE

It can be easily confused with the native American Bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*)

This site provides a helpful comparison:

https://www.fs.usda.gov/Internet/FSE_DOCUMENTS/fsbdev3_017307.pdf

RESOURCES

<https://extension.psu.edu/oriental-bittersweet>

https://www.canr.msu.edu/news/oriental_bittersweet_an_aggressive_invasive_plant

Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants by C. Colson Burrell, Brooklyn Botanic Garden All-Region Guide, 2007, pp.173-177