

Japanese Barberry

(*Berberis thunbergii*)

DESCRIPTION

Multi-branched, deciduous, dense spiny shrub with arching branches; commonly planted ornamental

Height: 2-6 feet high

Leaves: Small, oval-shaped (1/2 to 1 1/2"), shiny green to burgundy along spiny stems

Flowers: Small, yellow (1/4") blooming April-May

Fruit: Elliptical red berry



ECOLOGICAL THREAT

Seeds widely dispersed by birds

Forms dense stands in open and wooded habitats

Displaces native plants and reduces wildlife habitat and forage

Linked to increased populations of lime-disease-carrying deer ticks

Not eaten by deer and other animals

NATIVE ALTERNATIVES

Ceanothus americanus New Jersey Tea, Redroot, Wild Snowball, Mountain Sweet

Fothergilla gardenii Dwarf Fothergilla

Viburnum acerifolium Mapleleaf Viburnum

CONTROL

Mechanical: Most effective method for small populations is physical removal by hand pulling and digging; repeated mowing or cutting will control but not eradicate it.

Chemical: Early spring treatment with triclopyr before other woody species have produced leaves; summer to fall foliar spray, or treat cut stump with undiluted Roundup or triclopyr