

Oriental Bittersweet

(Celastrus orbicultus)

DESCRIPTION

Deciduous woody climbing vine

Height: Can reach 60 feet high and grow 4" in diameter

Leaves: Glossy, alternate, nearly round with finely toothed edges

Flowers: Blooms in May with clusters of small yellow-green flowers

Fruit: Green berries split open in the fall and turn red-orange



ECOLOGICAL THREAT

Seeds spread by birds and small mammals

Spreads quickly to threaten vegetation in open and forested areas

Vines damage or kill trees and shrubs by strangling or blocking sunlight

Displaces native plants and reduces wildlife habitat and forage

NATIVE ALTERNATIVES

Lonicera sempervirens. Trumpet Honeysuckle

Parthenocissus quinquefolia. Virginia Creeper. Woodbine

CONTROL

Extremely difficult to eradicate due to seed bank in soil

Mechanical: Cutting vines without removing or killing the roots will only stimulate vigorous regrowth. Small plants can be controlled by weekly mowing.

Chemical: Spray young vines with triclopyr during active growth. Cut larger vines in late summer and immediately apply 25% triclopyr to cut.

