



Oriental Bittersweet - *Celastrus orbiculatus*

CAUTION: Do not purchase holiday decorations made of Oriental Bittersweet (PROHIBITED). You may be contributing to the spread of this highly invasive species by disposing of decorations with viable seeds or root fragments.

Description - Deciduous vine reaching heights of 40 to 60'. It climbs by coiling around trees, shrubs and any other available support. Had a deep, extensive root system. Fruits have a yellowish-orange outer skin covering a scarlet aril. The fruits occur in the axils of the stems. Leaves are alternate, glossy and finely toothed. They turn yellow in the fall and the plants retain their leaves late in the season. Oriental bittersweet reproduces by seed and vegetatively by spreading underground roots that form new stems.



Habitat - Woody, climbing vine, with an open spiraling pattern. Forms dense thickets along fences. Some stems may become several inches in diameter. Can be found in a variety of habitats from roadsides to interior forests and sand dunes. It is most productive in full sun, its seedlings are extremely shade tolerant.

Ecological Impacts - Oriental Bittersweet is a vigorously growing vine that climbs over and smothers vegetation which may die from excessive shading or breaking. When bittersweet climbs high up on trees the increased weight can lead to uprooting and blow-over during high winds and heavy snowfalls. It has the ability to girdle adjacent vegetation, often to the detriment of native species.

Control and Management:

- Manual - Pulling, digging and cutting in the spring or early summer will slow its growth and reduce the ability to form flowers for reproduction. Rooted portions will remain alive and should be disposed of properly.
- Chemical - General use herbicides can be used as a spot treatment on freshly cut stumps using a brush or sponge applicator. **Follow label and state requirements**
- Bio-Control - No effective options are currently known.

See Reverse Side For Identification Photos

For more information contact the Albany County SWCD at: 24 Martin Road, Voorheesville, NY 12186

Tel: 518-765-7923 - Website: www.albanycounty.com/swcd