

Oriental Bittersweet ALERT!

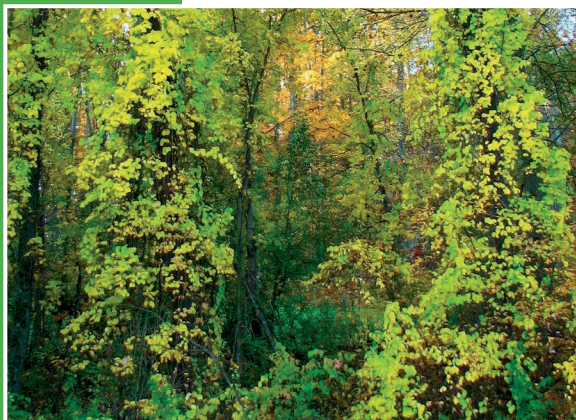
Hello Neighbor,
Oriental bittersweet has been spotted in the immediate area and may have invaded your landscape. Please be on the look-out for this highly invasive* plant.



Photo: James R. Allison,
Georgia Department
of Natural Resources,
Bugwood.org

Female plants have yellow seed casings that break open in the fall, revealing orange/red berries. Correct identification is critical — as it

is easily confused with less common native American bittersweet. Oriental's berries and flowers are along the vine, American's are only at ends of the vine.



*An invasive plant is a species that is not native and its introduction causes, or is likely to cause, economic or environmental harm or harm to human health.

ORIENTAL BITTERSWEET

Impacts:

- Grows rapidly and overruns other vegetation creating monocultures
- Smothers small tree and shrubs
- Damages larger trees by girdling and weighing down the canopy

Suggested Control:

- Do not compost decorative wreaths
- Verify that purchased 'American bittersweet' is not misidentified
- In most cases the most effective treatment of an established infestation is herbicide

CAUTION! Cutting, mowing, and burning will actually stimulate growth. If not treated with herbicide, oriental bittersweet will resprout after cutting.

Using chemical treatments can be hazardous to people, pets, and landscapes. Read and follow the entire manufacturer's label for usage.

To learn more visit www.misin.msu.edu

For invasive plant treatment assistance contact the West Michigan CISMA Coordinator at 616.402.9608 or email westmi-cisma@macd.org

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