

Oriental Bittersweet

Celastrus orbiculata



Perennial woody vine or trailing shrub.

Widespread in all three counties.

Clusters of small greenish flowers in leaf axils bloom May – June. Globular green to yellow quarter-inch “berries” burst open, September – November to reveal

fleshy, bright orange three-parted fruit.

Infests forest edges, woodlands, early successional fields, hedgerows, coastal areas and salt marsh edges. Especially common in areas suffering some form of land disturbance.

Climbing Bittersweet, *Celastrus scandens*, a rare native species has pointed leaves and flowers and fruit in terminal clusters.

Oriental Bittersweet - Control Methods

Hand Pulling – Can be effective for young plants. Care should be taken to remove the entire root system.

Mar-Nov; or when positive ID is possible.

Cut Stump – Cut the stem 2-3 inches above ground and apply a pre-mixed 50% solution of a water-soluble triclopyr amine mixed with water to the stump immediately following cutting. Removal of a 4 ft section of vine will reduce chance of young vines using dead vine as a trellis to climb into canopy.

Mar – Nov; best following full leaf expansion.

Basal Bark – Apply a 25% solution of oil-based triclopyr ester with an oil-based surfactant in a band several inches wide completely around all of the vines. Avoid runoff or spraying chemical on the ground.

Mar – Nov; best following full leaf expansion

Foliar Spray – A 2% solution of Triclopyr ester in an oil based surfactant applied in an even coat to all foliage is best used for sprawling shrub forms where non-target damage can be greatly minimized. **Mid-summer, fall, dormant season**