

# Oriental bittersweet

*Celastrus orbiculatus*



## HABITAT:

- Open woods, thickets, roadsides, upland meadows and young woods are the most vulnerable

## ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS:

- Vine will climb up nearby plants, shading their leaves
- Can smother trees and shrubs and uproot them with excessive weight of the vines



## TIMING:

- Blooms in mid to late spring (May to June)
- Fruits from July to October

## MANAGEMENT:

- If the plant is thinner than a pencil, pull by roots (cutting vine can re-stimulate growth)
- Plants growing on trees or shrubs should be cut at ground level and again as high as possible
- If plant has fruits, remove and dispose of them in bags

## Plant at a Glance:

1. **Leaf:** glossy and finely toothed<sup>1</sup>, oval to nearly round in shape, occur at different heights and sides of stem narrow point at tip
2. **Bark:** distinct lenticels
3. **Fruit:** bright yellow and red fruits that appear in clusters of 3 to 7 along the stem

## Native Alternative:

American bittersweet, *Celastrus scandens*<sup>1</sup>

- Perennial vine
- Blooms May - June, fruits July - October
- **Habitat:** open woods, woodland borders, shrubs, thickets
- **Benefits and Uses:** showy fruits, grows well on trellises
- **Growing tips:** full sun or light shade, heat and drought tolerant, need male and female to ensure pollination/fruits



**References:** <sup>1</sup>Travaglini, Mary. *MD/DC Invasive Plant Field ID and Treatment Booklet*: The Nature Conservancy, The National Park Service. Print.

**Photos:** Evans, Chris. *Foliage*. N.d. River to River CWMA. *Invasive Plants of the U.S.* Web. 9 Aug. 2012., Miller, James H. *Vine close-up in October*. October. USDA Forest. *Invasive Plants of the U.S.* Web. 9 Aug. 2012., Allison, James R. *Fruit(s)*. N.d. Georgia Department of Natural Resources. *Invasive Plants of the U.S.* Web. 9 Aug. 2012.