

NOT-WANTED!

ORIENTAL BITTERSWEET

Celastrus orbiculatus

EARLY DETECTION & CONTROL WILL PREVENT INFESTATIONS!



Oriental bittersweet is a non-native vine from Asia. It is popular in floral arrangements and wreaths. Although it may still be purchased, it is considered an ecological threat and should not be planted. It grows up to 60 feet long, threatens trees and smothers other vegetation. Oriental bittersweet is replacing our native American bittersweet in the eastern U.S. It has been classified as a noxious or prohibited plant in five states and has become established in 21 states and 14 national parks. Infestations have been found in both Wisconsin and Iowa.

After people plant oriental bittersweet, birds eat the berries and disperse the seeds. This can spread infestations in a short time period.

Unfortunately, many plants labeled “American bittersweet” at nurseries are actually oriental bittersweet or a hybrid of the two species. For this reason, planting any bittersweet plants should be avoided. Oriental bittersweet is also sold under the names: Asiatic bittersweet, round-leaved bittersweet, Oriental staff vine and climbing spindle berry. The Plant Conservation Alliance Network recommends planting other native ornamental vines. Good choices for Minnesota include purple clematis (*Clematis occidentalis*), virgin’s bower (*Clematis virginiana*), woodbine (*Parthenocissus vitacea*), or riverbank grape (*Vitis riparia*).

Oriental bittersweet found in Minnesota should be removed quickly to prevent infestations like those now occurring in other states.

For more information contact:

Carole Gernes, Coordinator
Ramsey County Cooperative Weed Management Area
Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District
2665 Noel Drive, Little Canada, MN 55117
carole.gernes@rwmwd.org
651-792-7977

