

BERBERIDACEAE – BARBERRY FAMILY

Plant: herbs, shrubs or trees

Stem: sometimes spiny

Root:

Leaves: deciduous or evergreen; simple to pinnately (or 3's) compound, alternate or completely basal, often dilated at base, sometimes spiny; sometimes with stipules

Flowers: perfect, regular (actinomorphic); 4-6 sepals or rarely none, sometimes falling early; 4-6(9) petals or rarely none; 4-18 stamens, often in 2 cycles and equal to petals and opposite; ovary superior, 1 pistil, 1 carpel

Fruit: capsule or berry, few to many seeds

Other: mostly dissimilar genera; Dicotyledons Group

Genera: 15 genera, widespread, some cultivated; locally *Berberis* (barberry), *Caulophyllum* (blue cohosh), *Diphylleia* (Umbrella-leaf), *Jeffersonia* (twin leaf), *Podophyllum* (may-apple)

Berberidaceae (Barberry Family) - flowers perfect, sepals 4-6 or none, some sepals are petaloid, petals 4-6-9 or none, fruit a capsule or berry, this family contains several dissimilar genera.



Japanese Barberry
Berberis thunbergii DC.
(Introduced)



Twinleaf
Jeffersonia diphylla (L.) Pers.



Sacred Bamboo
Nandina domestica Thunb. (Introduced)



Blue Cohosh
Caulophyllum thalictroides (L.) Michx.



Algerita [Agarita]
Mahonia trifoliolata (Moric.) Fedde



May-Apple [Wild Mandrake, Indian Apple]
Podophyllum peltatum L.

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May-Apple [Mandrake]; *Podophyllum peltatum* L.

Japanese Barberry

Berberis thunbergii DC. (Introduced)

Berberidaceae (Barberry Family)

Oak Openings Metropark, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: flowers yellow, solitary or in small (1-5 flowered) umbels from leaf axils; leaves ovate, entire and without bristles; stem spines mostly simple, sometimes 3-branched; fruit a red berry; sometimes cultivated; spring

[V Max Brown, 2005]



Blue Cohosh

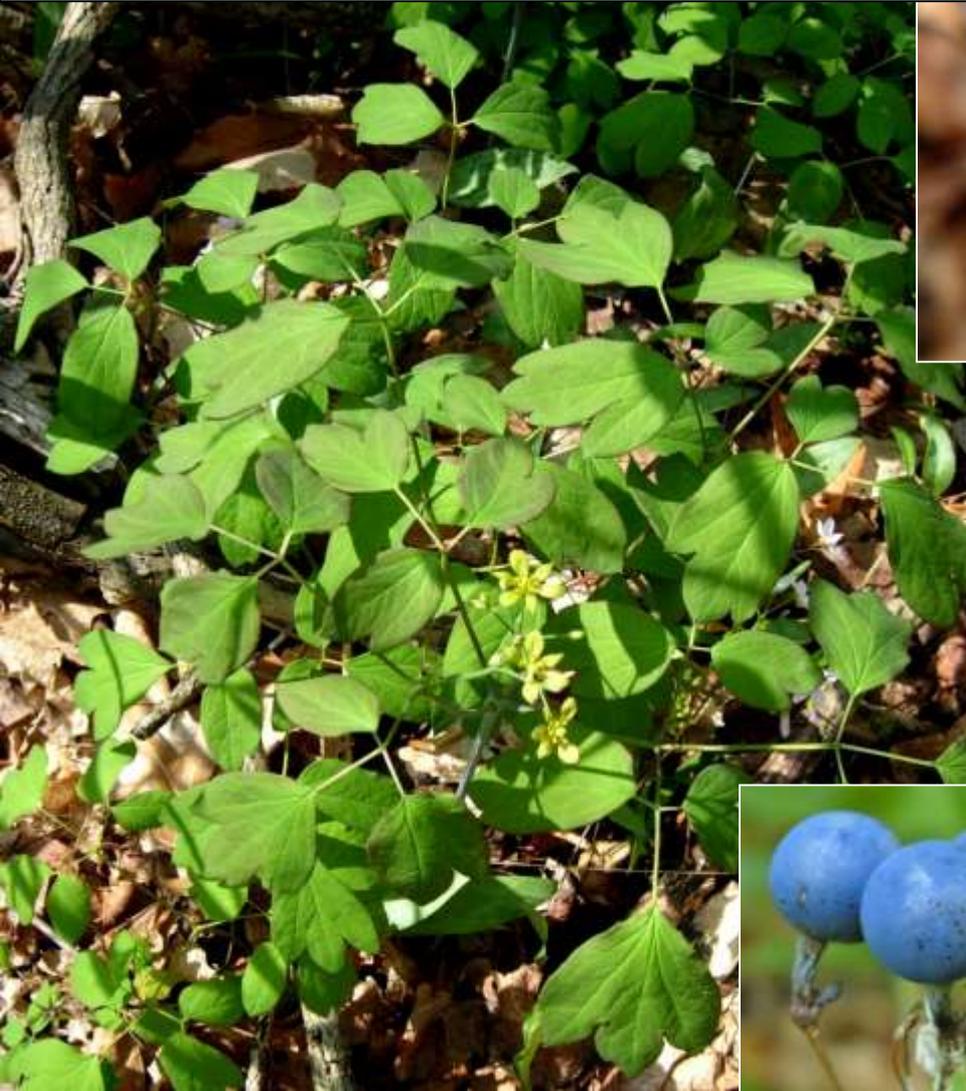
Caulophyllum thalictroides (L.) Michx.

Berberidaceae (Barberry Family)

Goll Woods State Nature Preserve, Fulton County, Ohio

Notes: 6-part flower, petals greatly reduced to nectaries, sepals (petaloid) yellowish-green (to purplish); leaves alternate, 2-5 lobed; stem 'bluish' and often glaucous; fruit a blue berry; woods; spring

[V Max Brown, 2005]



Twinleaf

Jeffersonia diphylla (L.) Pers.

Berberidaceae (Barberry Family)

Whipple (R.A.) State Nature Preserve,
Adams County, Ohio

Notes: 6-petaled flower, white, solitary on a scape lower than the leaves; leaves basal, divided into 2 leaflets;
fruit a pod that opens by a hinged lid on the top;
woods; spring

[V Max Brown, 2009]



Algerita [Agarita;Trifoliolate Barberry]

Mahonia trifoliolata (Moric.) Fedde

Berberidaceae (Barberry Family)

Friedrich Wilderness Park, Bexar County,
Texas

Notes: low evergreen shrub; flowers yellow, solitary or in small umbel from leaf axils; leaves very deeply tri-lobed (or compound with 3 leaflets), each leaflet with several sharp points with spines, glabrous and glaucous; fruit a red berry; sometimes cultivated; late winter to spring

[V Max Brown, 2010]



Sacred Bamboo

Nandina domestica Thunb.

(Introduced)

Berberidaceae (Barberry Family)

Heber Springs, Cleburne County, Arkansas

Notes: small shrub, to 2+ meters (dwarf cultivars are sold); flowers white to pinkish, tiny, in terminal clusters; leaves alternate, compound (tri-pinnate usually), lanceolate, red early, then green and red again in fall; fruit a red berry to 1 cm in dia., 1 to 3 seeds present; summer (a invasive species to watch)

[V Max Brown, 2014]



May-Apple [Wild Mandrake, Indian Apple]

Podophyllum peltatum L.

Berberidaceae (Barberry Family)

Maumee River Metroparks, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: flower white (rarely pink), solitary, 6-9 waxy petals; two umbrella-like, deeply cleft (palmate) leaves, single leaf plants lack flowers; stems from rhizome; fruit a yellow eatable 'apple-like' fruit; woody areas; spring to early summer

[V Max Brown, 2004]

