

MOST (UN)WANTED PLANT:



Asiatic Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)



Asiatic bittersweet is a non-native, highly invasive vine that wraps around trees and strangles them! Spread by birds who eat the red fruits and seed them across the landscape, bittersweet seedlings often pop up under evergreen trees where birds roost, and then rapidly climb trees with thick rope-like stems.

WANTED: DEAD OR REMOVED

Guilty of Strangling Trees!

Spread by birds who eat their red fruit, **Asiatic bittersweet** aka **Oriental bittersweet** is an invasive woody vine that grows in every town in Massachusetts, and probably in your back yard too! Bittersweet grows thick woody stems that can quickly wrap around and over surrounding trees and strangle them.

Bittersweet fruits start out green, turning cherry red with a yellow casing as they ripen in fall and early winter, which is when they are most noticeable in the landscape draping over trees and fences everywhere.

If Seen, Dig Immediately!

Hand-pull young bittersweet stems, being sure to remove all of the thick orange root. For older, woody vines, cut or saw stems at ground level, and then dig out as much of the traveling root system as you can. You can leave the cut stems to decay on the tree if they are difficult to remove. Repeat cutting yearly if roots continue to resprout.

Do not compost vines with fruits, and avoid using bittersweet berries for winter wreaths, to prevent birds from spreading them further.



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CommonGroundLT.org/Invasives