

Disposal

BURNING: Vines with roots and/or berries can be burned when possible (follow Cornwall regulations).

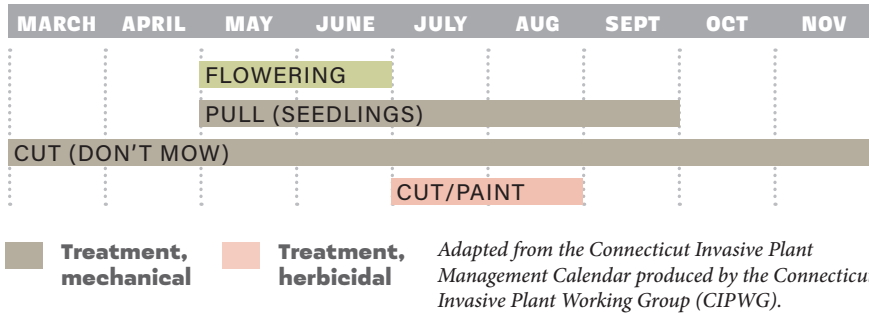
BAGGING: Bag vines with roots and/or seeds in black plastic, close tightly and leave the bag in the sun. Without moisture, the plant material inside will “bake” and die and can then be composted or disposed of in the woods. It may take six weeks or more for all the material in the bag to become completely lifeless.



AVOID:

- Tossing pulled seedlings where they can re-root
- Tossing branches with roots, seeds or fruit in areas where the seeds can take hold

Calendar



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CORNWALL CONSERVATION COMMISSION: IDENTIFY, REMOVE AND DISPOSE OF INVASIVE PLANTS

ASIAN BITTERSWEET

CELASTRUS ORBICULATUS



LET'S TALK BITTERSWEET.

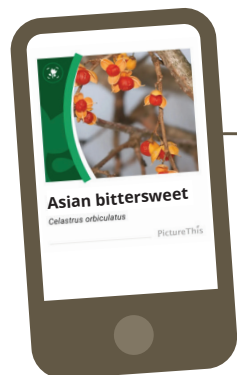
Asian Bittersweet, *Celastrus orbiculatus*, one of Cornwall's “sinister seven” invasive plants, was originally brought to the USA from Asia as an ornamental vine and also to help prevent erosion. It prefers sunny areas but tolerates shade. In Cornwall we see bittersweet vines on roadsides and edges of fields as well as in wooded areas. Often climbing trees (and telephone poles), it can grow into a thick woody vine up to 4 inches in diameter. As the host tree grows over time, the twining bittersweet eventually chokes off nutrients that flow beneath the bark. Sinister. Left unchecked it can blanket large areas, blocking sun and moisture from vegetation below.

Identification



BITTERSWEET INVASIVE PLANT FACTSHEET:

UCONN Extension guide to identification, control and disposal.
bit.ly/CCC_bittersweet



PLANT ID APP: PictureThis (about \$40 per year/free option). The app identifies the plant from a photo and provides details.

Spread



Birds eat the berries and spread the seeds. Humans are attracted to the orange berries and use them decoratively in wreaths and arrangements, which often get tossed into the landscape.

Removal

SMALL SEEDLINGS: If 12 inches or less, these are easily pulled, roots and all.

LONGER VINES: Cut at 2 feet from the ground the first time you cut, then make later cuts at 1 foot. Monitor the regrowth and keep cutting as necessary. This strategy weakens the plant significantly over time.

LARGE WOODY VINES: Cut near the base and paint the stump with herbicide. The stump, root and vine can be left to deteriorate.

Note: Most experts agree that while herbicides are harmful in general for the environment, many invasives can't be controlled without at least some herbicide use. Follow directions carefully and use in a targeted manner to minimize harm.

Do not mow bittersweet.

Cutting bittersweet near the ground stimulates growth and will cause it to proliferate.