

Japanese barberry is a hardy, thorny bush with bright red berries. It makes forest soil inhospitable to our native plants and forms impenetrable thickets that foster ticks.

Please help manage Japanese Barberry to protect our natural environment.

- Type: perennial, deciduous shrub, highly branched.
- Height: up to 6 feet tall (and wide).
- Growth: seeds; branches can root at the tips.
- Habitat: prefers full sun but adapts to shade.
- Leaves: 1-inch teardrops turning red in fall; sharp spines accompany each leaf.
- Flowers: small, pale yellow blooms in May.
- Fruit: oblong red berries along the branches.
- Status: on Vermont's Noxious Weed Quarantine list and a prohibited species across New England.



Japanese barberry was introduced for hedgerow and other plantings in 1875. Having escaped from many gardens, it is now found in fields and woodlands.

What to Do:

- Wear gloves and pull up small plants (up to 2') and seedlings by the roots. Pack down loosened soil and cover with leaf litter.
- Cut large plants then mow repeatedly.
- Revisit all sites frequently year after year.

More information:

https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive_plants/berberis.htm

<https://gobotany.nativeplanttrust.org/species/berberis/thunbergii/>

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