



Asiatic Bittersweet is an aggressive vine that is strangling and smothering our oaks and maples. It was brought from Asia to America as an ornamental plant. Please help manage Asiatic Bittersweet to protect our trees, other plants, and soil.



- Type: woody vine.
- Height: over 50 feet long.
- Growth: can exceed 10 feet / year.
- Habitat: open woodlands, roadsides, fencerows, grasslands.
- Leaves: light green, oval or circular, 2-5 inches long, alternate along the stem.
- Flowers: small, greenish-white flowers (May to early June); scattered along entire stem.
- Fruit: small, round; green when young; ripen to yellow; then split to reveal showy, scarlet berries that persist into winter.
- Status: its sale and distribution are banned in the states of Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and New York, among others.

Photos: Maine Natural Areas Program, DACF

Asiatic Bittersweet can grow rapidly, sometimes more than 10 feet per year! On trees, it tightens its grip like a boa constrictor, ultimately killing the tree. ➔

**What to Do:**

- Cut plants 3+ times/year at 1-2 feet above the ground.
- Cut berries into a bag; let them rot. **Do not compost!**
- Small plants – hand pull entire plants, including all roots and runners. Dispose in sealed plastic bag. **Do not compost.**
- Every tiny fragment of the root can resprout.
- Bag all plants and root fragments. Do not compost.
- Revisit all sites annually for 5 years.



**More information:**

[https://ipm.cahnr.uconn.edu/invasive\\_plants\\_asiatic\\_bittersweet/](https://ipm.cahnr.uconn.edu/invasive_plants_asiatic_bittersweet/)  
<https://vtinvasives.org/invasive/bittersweet-asiatic>

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- Was this information helpful? Need more? Email [LaurelACopeland@gmail.com](mailto:LaurelACopeland@gmail.com) or [LesleyPollitt@gmail.com](mailto:LesleyPollitt@gmail.com) or call Laurel at (802) 368-2439.