

A Friendly Notice about Invasive Plants

It appears your property may contain
Asiatic Bittersweet



Invasive plants are aggressive non-native species that reproduce rapidly, outcompete native species, and can negatively impact agriculture, industry, recreation, forestry, human health, and the environment. Invasive plants may be introduced unintentionally, as hitchhikers on clothing, gear, or equipment, or unknowingly, often for ornamental purposes.

This notice is part of the early detection, response, and monitoring plan for the **Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program** whose mission is to protect the region from the negative impacts of invasive species.

For more information contact the
Adirondack Park Invasive Plant Program
518-576-2082, P.O. Box 65, Keene Valley, NY 12943
www.adkinvasives.com

ASIATIC BITTERSWEET (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)

Origin: Asia

THE PROBLEM: Although a popular ornamental, Asiatic bittersweet is a vigorously growing vine that has a detrimental impact on our local forests. It grows up to 60 feet and twines around trees, sometimes girdling them. It can smother natives and out compete them for sunlight and nutrients. Birds can widely spread seeds.

HOW TO IDENTIFY: Asiatic bittersweet is a woody vine with elliptic, alternating leaves that spiral around the stem. Flowers bloom in the leaf axils in May to early June yielding abundant bright reddish orange fruit in the fall. This distinguishes it from American bittersweet, which has flowers and fruit at the end of its branches.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Dig out plants and roots during flowering prior to seed development. Put all plant pieces in plastic bags and take them to a sanitary landfill. Do not compost, as plants survive, spread, and decompose slowly. Monitor the site in the fall, pull out any new plants, and repeat each year until the seed bank is depleted. Herbicide is also effective - follow regulations. Native alternatives that can be planted are American bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*) or trumpet honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*).

Observer name: _____

Phone #: _____

Date species was observed: _____

Comments: _____

Thank you for your help in the fight against
invasive species!