

A Friendly Notice about Invasive Plants

It appears your property may contain
Japanese Barberry



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

Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)

Origin: Japan

THE PROBLEM: Although Japanese barberry is a popular ornamental shrub, it has detrimental impacts on our local forests. It spreads rapidly, forms dense thickets, and crowds out native understory plants. It produces a lot of seeds - up to two thousand per plant. Fruits are eaten by birds and small mammals and spread long distances by this means. Barberry is unpalatable for local wildlife and serves as deer tick habitat.

HOW TO IDENTIFY: Japanese barberry is a dense, spiny shrub that grows 2 - 8 feet in height. Plants may be purple or green. The bark is grey with sharp thorns. Leaves are small and oval. The inner wood is bright yellow. In the fall, barberry produces small, red berries and leaves turn red.

WHAT YOU CAN DO: Pull out plants and roots and leave to dry in the sun. Be sure to remove plants prior to fruiting to prevent further seed dispersal. Monitor the site continually, pull out any new plants, and repeat each year until the seed and root bank is depleted. Two native alternatives you can plant are northern bayberry (*Myrica pensylvanica*) and eastern ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*).

Observer name: _____

Phone #: _____

Date species was observed: _____

Comments: _____

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