

Berberis thunbergii

Japanese Barberry

Invasive to Maine

Upland Forests, Fields, and Developed Areas

Leaves



<http://commons.wikimedia.org>



Look for leaves that are green, 2 to 4 cm long, oval-shaped, and have smooth edges. Each small cluster of leaves has a single thorn.

LEAF ARRANGEMENT	LEAF TYPE	LEAF/LEAFLET SHAPE	LEAF/LEAFLET EDGE
 ALTERNATE	 SIMPLE	 PALMATE	 SMOOTH
 OPPOSITE	 COMPOUND-PALMATE	 OVAL	 TOOTHED
 WHORLED	 COMPOUND-PINNATE	 ROUND	 WAVY

Plant



[andreabalzer, www.flickr.com](http://www.flickr.com)



Look for a bush that grows up to 2 meters tall with a dense round top.

Stem

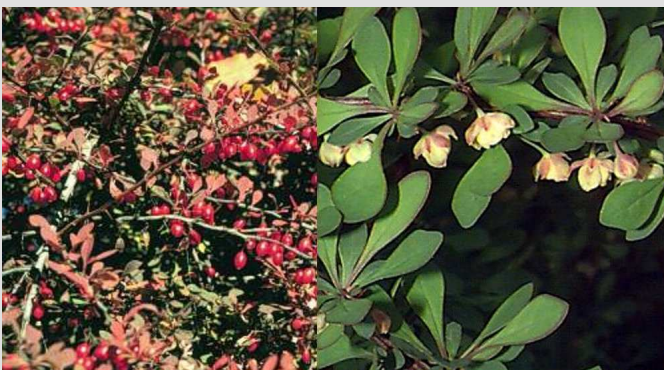


[Sarah Morrisseau, GMRI](#)



Look for stems that grow in a zig-zag pattern with one thorn at each joint.

Seasonal Change



[Mark Brand, Uconn Plant Database](#)

PERMITTED USE

In April look for small white flowers. After September bright red berries and leaves will turn purplish-red.

www.vitalsignsme.org

Similar Species

Japanese Barberry has smooth leaves and only 1 thorn at each joint. European and American Barberry have 1 to 3 thorns per joint and leaves with toothed edges.

Fun Fact

Japanese Barberry was introduced to the US as a decorative plant in 1875. Seeds were sent from Russia to the Arnold Arboretum in Boston. In 1896 Barberry shrubs grown from these seeds were planted at the New York Botanical Gardens.