

Celastrus orbiculatus

Invasive to Maine

Oriental Bittersweet,
Asian Bittersweet













Upland
Forests, Fields, and Developed Areas

Leaves



VS users 0000036, luckycharms

Look for glossy leaves that are almost round. Some leaves have pointed tips while others do not. Each leaf is 5 to 13 cm long and its edges are finely toothed.

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



VS user metarzan

Look for a woody vine growing up to 18.5 m long and climbing on living (trees, shrubs) or non-living (buildings, telephone poles) support.

Stem



VS users rightbackatya, teamsquirt

Look for a vine that is smooth and green when it is young. The older vines are woody, round, and bumpy. The roots of the vine are bright orange!

Seasonal Change



VS user Three Stooges

From June to August look for clusters of small green flowers all along the vines. After August look for bright red fruit with thin yellow skins.

Similar Species

Oriental bittersweet and American bittersweet are very similar species. While berries and flowers are dispersed all over the vine of Oriental bittersweet, they are clustered at the tip of American bittersweet.

Did You Know?

Oriental bittersweet is spread by birds that eat the berries, and by people who use the vines and berries to decorate. It also spreads quickly using special roots called stolons.