

Celastrus orbiculatus

Invasive to Maine

Oriental Bittersweet,
Asian Bittersweet

Upland
Forests, Fields, and Developed Areas

Leaves



Chris Evans, River to River CWMA, invasive.org

Look for glossy leaves that are almost round with long pointed tips. 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

Seasonal Change



Leslie J. Mehrhoff, U. Conn., invasive.org

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

Plant



James R. Allison, Georgia DNR, forestryimages.org

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



James H. Miller, USDA Forest Service, invasive.org

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!

Similar Species

Oriental Bittersweet and American Bittersweet are very similar. There are, however, a few great ways to tell them apart. Oriental Bittersweet has rounder leaves and bright red berries with yellow skins. American Bittersweet has darker berries with orange skins and oval leaves.

Fun Fact

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.

Researched and created by: Nicole Stephens

Help us improve this species card! Contact us with your updates.