# Solanum dulcamara

**Invasive to Maine** 

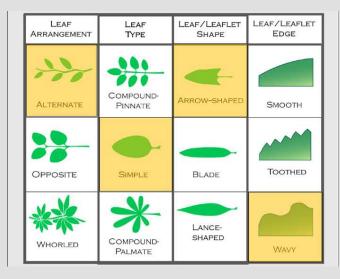
Woody nightshade, bittersweet nightshade

Upland Forests, Fields, and Developed Areas

#### Leaves



Look for dark green to purple leaves that alternate along a slender stem. Leaves are roughly arrowshaped. Look for small ear-like lobes at the base of each leaf.



## Seasonal Change



From May-Aug, look for clusters of 3-20 purple, starshaped flowers with 5 petals and a prominent yellow cone. In Aug-Octo, look for egg-shaped red berries.

#### **Plant**



Look for a vine or sprawling shrub that scrambles over other plants. With the right support, the vine can reach 4 m, but is usually 1-2 m tall.

#### **Stem**



Look for lower stems that are woody and slender upper stems that are herbaceous (flexible). Crushed stems have an unpleasant smell.

### **Similar Species**

Bittersweet nightshade can be confused with deadly nightshade (Atropa belladonna). Deadly nightshade flowers and fruit are very different. Its berries are green and ripen to black. Its flowers are a dull brownish purple and do not have a prominent yellow cone.

#### **Did You Know?**

DO NOT EAT! All parts of bittersweet nightshade are poisonous to humans, pets, and livestock (poison = solanine). They are edible by birds. Birds eat and spread the berries (each tiny berry has about 30 seeds!).



