

ORIENTAL BITTERSWEET

Celastrus orbiculatus



Hoosier Heartland RC & D

Mature Height	Vines to tops of trees—80 + feet	Soil Type	All types
Mature Spread	Vines to end of tree limbs	Flower Color	Greenish
Mature Form	Vines	Foliage Color	Green
Growth Rate	Fairly Rapid	Fall Color	Green till leaf drop
Sun Exposure	Sun to forest shade		
Soil Moisture	Moist		

Oriental bittersweet is a rapidly spreading deciduous, twining vine. The outer surface of its roots are characteristically bright orange. Small greenish flowers occur in clusters in the leaf axils. It differs from the native bittersweet in that the fruits are found continuously along branches rather than just at the ends. Main stems of up to 4 inches in diameter have been found. The heavy plants often cover entire trees causing death and wind throws. Spread both by seed moved by birds and by root suckering. Small plants can be controlled by pulling. Larger plants are best controlled by cutting the stem near the ground and treating the stump with a systemic herbicide such as triclopyr or glyphosate immediately after cutting. Large areas like the one in the center below are more easily controlled with a foliar spray.



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Dubois Soil and Water Conservation District



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