

# Oriental Bittersweet

## *Celastrus orbiculatus*

### Invasive Species in MA

*Found in forest edges, woodlands, and disturbed land.*



- Introduced in the late 1800s as an ornamental and erosion control, and is still sold as such
- Climbing vine, with distinct bright yellow leaves in summer months
- Old stems can be 10 inches in diameter and have red-brown, cracked bark
- Female plants have distinct, seasonal yellow-green flowers and red fruit

### What makes it invasive?

- The plant winds around a host, blocking its light and strangling it.
- Individual vines can grow up to 60 ft. in length, causing it to replace entire native ecosystems.

Learn more:



*Placard posted as a Girl Scout Gold Award project by Anastasia Bruner, 2024.*