

NOT-WANTED!

ORIENTAL BITTERSWEET

Celastrus orbiculatus

EARLY DETECTION & CONTROL WILL PREVENT INFESTATIONS!



Oriental bittersweet is a non-native vine from Asia. It is popular in floral arrangements and wreaths. It is considered an ecological threat and should not be planted. It grows up to 60 feet long, threatens trees and smothers other vegetation. Oriental bittersweet is replacing our native American bittersweet in the eastern U.S. Birds eat the berries and disperse the seeds. This can spread infestations in a short time period. It has become established in 22 states and 14 national parks. Infestations were discovered in Minnesota in 2011. It is listed by Minnesota law as a prohibited noxious weed. By law, all above and below ground parts of this plant must be destroyed. No sale, transport or propagation is allowed. Oriental bittersweet found in Minnesota should be removed quickly to prevent infestations like those now occurring in other states

Unfortunately, many plants labeled "American bittersweet" at nurseries are actually oriental bittersweet or a hybrid of the two species. For this reason, planting any bittersweet plants should be avoided. Oriental bittersweet is also sold under the names: Asiatic bittersweet, round-leaved bittersweet, Oriental staff vine and climbing spindle berry. The Plant Conservation Alliance Network recommends planting other native ornamental vines. Good choices for Minnesota include purple clematis (*Clematis occidentalis*), virgin's bower (*Clematis virginiana*), woodbine (*Parthenocissus vitacea*), or riverbank grape (*Vitis riparia*).

For more information contact:

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