

Unit 1 Lesson 2: "I" is for Invasive

Invasive Plant Information Sheet

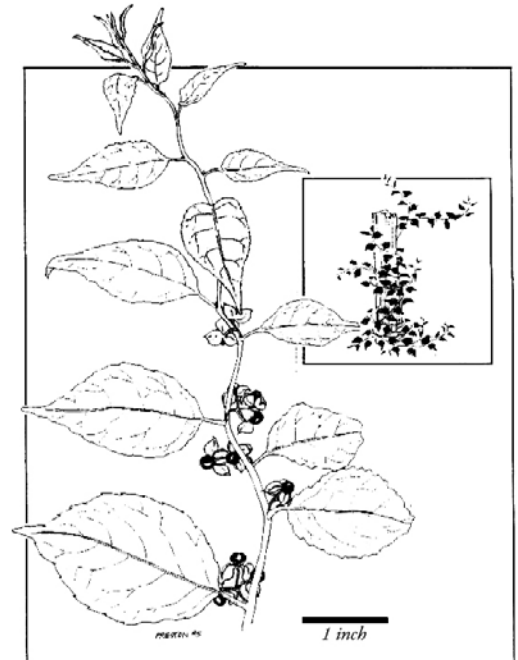
Handout 1

Asiatic Bittersweet

Celastrus orbiculatus

Preferred habitat: Dominates lowland slopes and thickets. Here in North America, Asiatic bittersweet is extremely successful in almost any habitat type, such as disturbed edges, abandoned fields, along coasts, and the edges of salt marshes. It prefers utility corridors, fence rows, railroads, and roadways.

Description: Non-native woody vine with yellow fruits that split to reveal showy bright red seeds. It is also commonly referred to as Oriental bittersweet. This species entwines its round, brown stems about other plants and structures, climbing as high as 60 feet. Approximately two weeks after autumn foliage's peak, the leaves turn golden-yellow and are easily sighted.



Inset shows a plant climbing an old fencepost. (Illustration by Judy Preston)



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