
Japanese Barberry

Berberis thunbergii



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Spring flowers are yellow drooping clusters

This **severely invasive** shrub in Maine, with arching, prickly branches, grows 2-6'+ high and tolerates both sun and shade.

- Leaves come out very early in spring and stagger alternately along the branches, are $\frac{1}{2}$ - $1\frac{1}{2}$ " long, and spoon-shaped. The color may vary from green to purple, then its fall foliage is brilliant red and orange.
 - Branches have a sharp spine beneath each cluster of leaves. Cut stems are bright yellow.
 - Flowers are yellow drooping clusters from mid-April to May.
 - Fruits are bright red berries that appear from July to October, and hang on through winter.
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HOW TO CONTROL:

- Pull or dig anytime the soil is wet. Its orange roots will re-sprout. Monitor. Repeat.
- For large shrubs, cut stems back to the base, then use a propane torch or flame weeder to burn the root crown. Monitor and repeat the following year.
- Or, for large shrubs, if beyond 25' from water, cut to 1' late in season, over 32°F, and immediately paint cut stems with 25-50% glyphosate or triclopyr. Spraying leaves with 2-5% herbicide may be needed for re-sprouting.

NOTE: Barberry bushes harbor ticks.

Sources

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<https://extension.umaine.edu/publications/2504e/>;

https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive_plants/berberis.htm

Controls

https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/CAES/DOCUMENTS/Publications/Special_Bulletins/SpecialBulletinFeb2013Wardpdf.pdf;

<https://extension.umaine.edu/publications/2504e/>;

https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive_plants/berberis.htm;

CT Agricultural Experiment Station, University of CT. Japanese Barberry Control
Methods, Reference Guide for Foresters and Professional Woodland Managers
