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# Bittersweet

*Celastrus orbiculatus*



This deciduous vine grows up to 60' tall and is considered **severely invasive** in Maine, aggressively overtaking nearby trees and structures.

- Leaves are staggered along the vine, varying in shape from round and slightly toothed to elliptical with pointed tips. They become bright yellow in late summer.
  - Flowers are greenish-yellow, 5-petaled in leaf-axil joint along the entire stem in May and June.
  - Seed capsules are yellow and orange in fall, and only on female plants.
  - Roots are orange.
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Fall

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### HOW TO CONTROL:

**Low growth:** Pull or dig any time the soil is wet. Repeat 2X/month until no re-sprouting.

**Note:** Mowing stimulates root growth and sprouts.

**Mature vine:** If beyond 25' from water, cut to 1' in spring to prevent seed production; then re-cut in late summer or fall, over 32 degrees, and paint the cut stems with herbicide. Use 25% glyphosate immediately, or triclopyr. Repeat the following year.

Spray leaf re-sprouts with 5% triclopyr (glyphosate is not effective on these leaves.) Residual branches can be left to dry in place.

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# Sources

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[https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive\\_plants/celastrus.htm](https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive_plants/celastrus.htm);

<https://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/invasive-species/OrientalBittersweetBCP.pdf>

## Controls

[https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive\\_plants/celastrus.htm](https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive_plants/celastrus.htm);

Casco Bay Invasive Species Network, Winning the War on Weeds;

<https://mnfi.anr.msu.edu/invasive-species/OrientalBittersweetBCP.pdf>

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