

Invasive Out

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Native In



Photo Source: Chris Evans

Barberry

Japanese Barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*)
Common Barberry (*Berberis thunbergia*)

- Designated by the State of Maine as “Severely Invasive” and “Very Invasive”, respectively.
- Perennial shrubs formerly planted as accent plants due to red fruits and adaptability to sun and shade conditions.
- Thorny branches make it difficult to trim/maintain; provides limited value for native pollinators and other native wildlife.
- Re-sprouts, even when cut severely.
- Dense growth form allows it out-compete native plants.
- Reportedly harbors more ticks than do natives. See <https://today.uconn.edu/2012/02/controlling-japanese-barberry-helps-stop-spread-of-tick-borne-diseases/>



Photo Source: Heather McCargo, Wild Seed Project

Rosebay Rhododendron

Rhododendron maximum

- Evergreen shrub that typically grows 8-10' high and spreads laterally; produces large attractive pink flowers during spring and summer.
- Good to reclaim disturbed sites and provides cover and shelter for deer, bears, and bird species but does not do well in windy areas.



Sweet Fern in fall - Photo Source: Becky Gallery

Sweet Fern

Comptonia peregrina

- Preferable to Rhododendron in windy areas; smaller than Rhododendron; spreads by rhizomes.
- Sturdy, sweet-smelling native shrub; Remarkably adaptable. Prefers sunny areas, but tolerates shade, variable soil moistures, and salty air.

Other native-to-Maine choices to replace Barberry

Mountain Laurel

Kalmia latifolia

Northern Bayberry

Morella (fka Myrica) pensylvanica

<https://gobotany.nativeplanttrust.org/species/kalmia/latifolia/>

<https://extension.umaine.edu/publications/2572e/>