



# Door County Invasive Species Team

*as managed by the Door County Soil and Water Conservation Department, empowers citizens with the education, tools and skills necessary to control invasive species.*

Invasive Species Workshops, News and Volunteer Opportunities

December 2014

## Town of Jacksonport approves noxious weed ordinance

Ordinance #02-2014 was adopted by the Town of Jacksonport on October 28th. The ordinance requires property owners to destroy noxious and invasive weeds found on their property and provides the Town of Jacksonport the enforcement authority to require such action. The ordinance describes noxious weeds as those defined by Wisconsin Statute §66.0407, which include Canada thistle, leafy spurge, field bindweed and any other weed deemed noxious by the Wisconsin DNR. The ordinance also identifies two species specifically included by the Town of Jacksonport – **Phragmites and wild parsnip**. You can view the actual ordinance at <http://www.jacksonport.org/ordinances/>.

Jacksonport is the second Door County Township to adopt a noxious weed ordinance of some kind. In 2013, the Town of Nasewaupee passed an ordinance also deeming Phragmites as noxious in the township.



Non-native Phragmites stand (Wisconsin DNR)

## DCIST needs your help! Record the time you've spent controlling invasives in 2014



Your volunteer support helps DCIST be competitive for grants that allow us to assist landowners and host educational programs, like our Early Detection Workshop with UW-Extension (pictured above) which took place in May 2014.

Did you know that your time provides matching hours required for DCIST to remain successful at receiving grant funding? If you have conducted invasive species control work in 2014, we'd like to hear from you. Please record your volunteer hours! These hours not only help us maintain our grant funding, but also aide in keeping track of and prioritizing on-the-ground efforts occurring throughout the county to combat invasive species.

Your time is eligible if work was performed on invasive species (e.g. invasive plants and animals) and the work was performed on private and/or public lands in Door County (including your own property). Forms of eligible work can include inventorying or mapping, herbicide application, pulling, cutting, clean up, monitoring, and more! **You can download a volunteer form to fill out at our webpage <http://map.co.door.wi.us/swcd/invasive/> under 'forms'**. Hard copies of the form are also available from the Door County Soil and Water Conservation Department and the DCIST coordinator.

**Want to dig deeper with more invasive species information and emerging science? The Upper Midwest Invasive Species Conference took place in Duluth, MN on October 20-22<sup>nd</sup>. This conference brought together 700 attendees from 23 states and providences to talk invasive species management, research and policy – you can view conference presentations on a variety of invasive species topics at <http://www.mipn.org/UMISC-2014.html>.**

## What do Holidays and Invasive Species have in common?

### **Oriental Bittersweet.**

Being aware of the plants used in your wreaths and garlands during the holidays could save you a serious headache in the New Year. Oriental bittersweet is an attractive vine often used in holiday decorations due to its colorful red berries and the yellow seed capsules surrounding them. However, these same berries that bring color to holiday decorations also easily spread the seed of this terrible invasive.

Oriental bittersweet, also known by its scientific name *Celastrus orbiculatus*, is a native to eastern Asia that was planted in North America for ornamental purposes as early as 1736. It has since been long used in the floriculture industry and by crafters, often to make seasonal arrangements that will be hung outdoors. Oriental bittersweet is a dangerous invasive though, known to dominate tree canopies and reduce light levels on the forest floor to the point where little else can grow. The weight of the vines, compounded with snow and ice or high winds, can even snap trees or large branches.

The good news is that there is a great native alternative to Oriental bittersweet that you can use in holiday decor – **American bittersweet**. Not only are the berries larger and showier than the invasive variety, but the berries of American bittersweet are also better retained by the plant through the winter. A few key points will help you tell American and Oriental bittersweet apart. First, the seed capsules – Oriental bittersweet has yellow seed capsules on red berries (give a yell when you see yellow!), whereas American bittersweet has orange seed capsules on red berries (**O**range is **O**K). Second is the berry placement – Oriental bittersweet has berries strung-out along the stem while American bittersweet's berries are all clustered near the end of the vines.

Winter is a great time of the year to identify these vines on the landscape as well. The berries are easily visible and without the summer leaves you can see the vines of bittersweet encircling trees for support (unlike other vines, bittersweet does not have tendrils that 'grasp' other foliage). Take an extra minute to look for bittersweet around bird boxes and feeders especially – the seeds are easily carried by birds as they feed on the berries.

If you find Oriental bittersweet, be sure to report it to DCIST by emailing [dcist1@gmail.com](mailto:dcist1@gmail.com) or visiting our website at <http://map.co.door.wi.us/swcd/invasive/InvasiveForm.htm>. Reports are most valuable with a GPS or street location and a picture for ID. Oriental bittersweet is considered an early detection species in Door County as there are relatively few known occurrences in the County. It is classified as 'restricted' by Wisconsin's Invasive Species Rule.

To learn more about Oriental bittersweet and American bittersweet, visit the Minnesota DNR site and check out the many great links to resources

[http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/woody/oriental\\_bittersweet.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/terrestrialplants/woody/oriental_bittersweet.html).



Information adapted from:

<http://www.myminnesotawoods.umn.edu/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/gupta.chandler.2013.U-MN-Extension.oriental-bittersweet.v1.1.pdf>

## Woody invasive plant control – five reasons winter is a great time to treat!

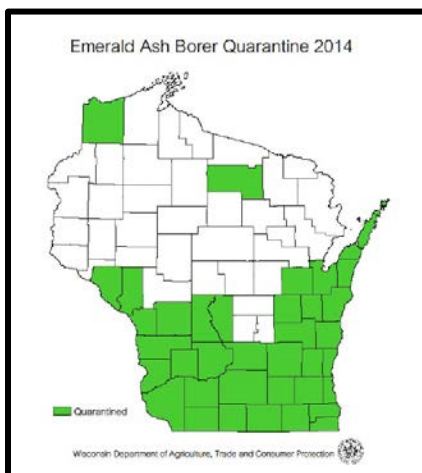
Winter is an excellent time to tackle woody invasive species like honeysuckle on your Door County property. While herbaceous perennials (plants that have leaves and stems that die down at the end of the growing season to the soil level) cannot properly absorb and translocate herbicides in cold weather, this is not true for woody shrubs and trees. Instead, simply making sure that the herbicide is reaching a living part of the tree or shrub through methods such as cut-stump is suitable. Amine herbicides such as glyphosate (i.e. Round-up) mixed with water can be used in temperatures as low as 10° Fahrenheit with little worry of equipment or herbicide freezing.

### Five advantages to treating woody invasives during the winter months (adapted from *invasiveplantnews.com*):

- 1) Effectiveness** – so long as you're not trying to treat in deep snow, winter treatments can be very effective. Use a concentrated herbicide solution of glyphosate (between 20-25% active ingredient) and cut the stump as low to the ground as possible.
- 2) Reduces collateral damage** – no worries about herbicide hitting the leaves of plants you are not targeting during the winter. Herbaceous plants have died back, and the cut-stump method is a very direct application.
- 3) Ease of movement and identification** – areas that were dense with deciduous leaves in the summer months are now open, making them more accessible and invasives easier to find. Some woody species, like buckthorn, hold their fruits and berries through the winter also aiding in identification.
- 4) Comfort** – Hot summer temperatures can be amplified by protective clothing and equipment necessary for herbicide treatments. Wear layers in winter that can be put on and taken off as activity levels change. Also, there are no bugs, ticks, poison ivy, or pollen to contend with!
- 5) Enjoyment** – getting outside on a sunny winter day can be incredibly refreshing. Take a deep breath of crisp air and listen for the rapping of nearby woodpeckers. And, if you are burning a pile of woody invasives, you warm up by the fire as you enjoy the sense of satisfaction that comes with a job well done.



Above: Cut-stump herbicide treatment on honeysuckle (Jim Miller, Bugwood.org).  
Below: Buckthorn berries persist in winter (J. E. Klett, Colorado State University).



### The 2014 spread of Emerald Ash Borer in Wisconsin

Door County was not the only one in which Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) was found in 2014. Adams, Buffalo, Calumet, Columbia, Grant, Monroe, and Oneida Counties also saw new detections. In addition, the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection also added eight counties in close proximity to EAB infestations to the quarantine list including Green, Iowa, Juneau, Kewaunee, Lafayette, Manitowoc, Outagamie, and Richland. After the addition of these 16 counties, the EAB quarantine now includes 37 Wisconsin Counties (Source: Nov. 13, Wisconsin Pest Bulletin). State and federal laws forbid moving hardwood firewood out of emerald ash borer quarantined areas.

The following links provide interesting insights into the EAB invasion in the United States and how land managers are facing tough decisions in the face of changing forests and invasive pests.  
<http://www.lansingstatejournal.com/longform/news/local/2014/09/03/michigan-emerald-ash-borer/14796695/> or  
<http://blog.nature.org/science/2014/07/24/logging-ash-to-save-hemlocks/>

For up-to-date information on EAB in Wisconsin, visit <http://datcpservices.wisconsin.gov/eab/>

Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) is a low-growing, deciduous shrub that was introduced in the United States in 1875. It was presented as an ornamental and promoted as a replacement for common barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*), another invasive that is the host of black stem rust. Characteristics of Japanese barberry, such as its high shade tolerance and drought resistance, make it adaptable to a variety of open and wooded habitats, wetlands, old fields and disturbed areas.

Impacts of barberry invasion include a loss of natural habitat as dense stands form that ultimately dominate the forest understory and shade out native plants. Research has shown that forests infested with barberry also have higher rates of Lyme disease carrying ticks. White-tailed deer and other herbivores avoid browsing barberry due to the plant's spines and feed on native plants, giving it a competitive advantage.

Japanese barberry can be identified as a spiny shrub up to 3' tall with small, oval green leaves that transform to shades of red in the fall. Each of the plant's nodes has a single, sharp spine. The bright red and oblong-shaped berries occur on narrow stalks both singly or in clusters. The berries persist through the winter months and can aid in identification. If a stem or root from a barberry plant is cut, it will reveal a bright yellow inner bark. Japanese barberry spreads both by seed (readily dispersed by birds) and vegetatively through horizontal branches that root freely when they touch the ground.

Mechanical methods such as hand-pulling and digging can be effective on small populations/plants if care is taken to remove the as much of the root system as possible. Larger plants can be removed using a leverage tool such as a weed wrench. This is easiest in early spring when the ground is soft. For more dense or established populations, chemical control in the form of a cut-stump treatment may be most effective.

### **Japanese Barberry is a species being proposed as an addition to Chapter NR-40 (Wisconsin's Invasive Species Rule).**

Revisions to NR-40 will be presented to the Natural Resources Board for approval on December 10<sup>th</sup>. If added, barberry would be listed as 'restricted', meaning the plant is already widely established across the state and that high environmental and/or economic impacts from the species are evident. Restricted species may be possessed, but may not be transported, transferred or introduced without a permit. Control of existing barberry populations will be encouraged.

