

JAPANESE BARBERRY

invasive
fact sheet



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Japanese barberry invades Vermont's forests and fields. It is easy to see in August and September when its red berries are most colorful.

DID YOU KNOW?

Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) is sold in many different ornamental varieties such as 'Aurea' with gold leaves or 'Crimson Pygmy' with purple leaves. Though these cultivars look different from the green-leaved Japanese barberry that is found in forests, studies show that these ornamental varieties are all capable of producing offspring with green leaves.

— *Journal of Environmental Horticulture*, 2006

Japanese barberry

spatula-shaped leaves

© John Randall/The Nature Conservancy

yellow flowers hanging below stem

© Leslie Mehrhoff/IPANE

single spine at each leaf base

© Candice Black/The Nature Conservancy



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For single plants:

✿ Digging out barberry plants will cause soil disturbance and should only be applied in areas that you intend to replant

✿ The Weed Wrench™ (right) is a handy tool that helps pull out a plant's entire root system in one easy step.



© The Nature Conservancy

For large infestations:

✿ Cut large plants at their base, once in the early spring and once in the late fall. *Cutting plants in mid-winter will encourage more growth.*

— or —

✿ If possible, after cutting stumps in the fall, wrap a few layers of burlap or thick plastic over the stump and tie tightly with twine or rope. Check covered stumps periodically to cut or recover any new growth.



non-invasive alternatives

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Virginia rose
Rosa virginiana



Courtesy Missouri Botanical PlantFinder

Northern bayberry
Myrica pensylvanica

wild
hydrangea

*Hydrangea
arborescens*



Courtesy Missouri Botanical PlantFinder

blue
holly

*Ilex x
meserveae*



Courtesy Missouri Botanical PlantFinder