**Asiatic Bittersweet**

Bulletin #2506

**Threats to Native Habitats**

Asiatic bittersweet poses a serious threat to other species and to whole habitats due to its aggressive habit of twining around and growing over other vegetation. This plant has a high reproductive rate, long-range dispersal mechanisms, and the ability to root-sucker. The vines can strangle tree and shrub stems. All types of plants, even entire plant communities, can be over-topped and shaded out by the vine’s rapid growth. Nearly pure stands of this vine are sometimes found in affected areas. Recently it has been discovered colonizing sand dunes in Connecticut and Rhode Island.

See also a good summary from the US Forest Service with details to support the below summary at <http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/plants/vine/celorb/all.html>

"Oriental bittersweet presence may alter soil chemistry, plant succession, and stand structure; threaten native plant diversity; and reduce productivity in silvicultural and agricultural systems."

**Control**

Small patches can be hand-pulled. Take care to remove the entire root to prevent resprouting. Low patches have been successfully removed by cutting the vine and treating the regrowth with a triclopyr herbicide. Control is more successful in taller patches when cut stems are immediately painted with triclopyr or glyphosate. This plant has a substantial seedbank, and complete eradication may depend on repeating control methods for several years.