

# JAPANESE BARBERRY

(BERBERIS THUNDERGII)

## 2019 Status in Maine:

Widespread. Severely invasive. Perennial deciduous shrub. Originates in Japan and Asia.

## Identify

**Leaves:** Alternate, elliptical, and small. Taper to the base and are rounded at the end. Occur in groups at nodes along the twig. Turn red in the fall.

**Flowers:** Small, 6-petaled, pale yellow. Hang below the stem. Bloom in May.

**Fruit:** Fruit is oblong and matures from green to red in late summer. Hangs below stem.

**Bark:** Reddish brown. Twigs have sharp spines where each cluster of leaves meets the stem.

## Location

This plant is shade tolerant, but is more productive in sun. It tolerates dry to damp soils. Can be found in forests, forest edges, fields, and disturbed habitats. Invasions of undisturbed woodlands are becoming more common.

**Parks of concern:** Hinckley Park, Trout Brook Nature Preserve, Greenbelt

## Problem

Grows in dense thickets that shade out native plants. Seeds can be spread long distances by animals. Its presence has also been shown to increase tick populations.

**How it spreads:** Fruits are eaten by birds (especially turkey and grouse) and small mammals. Arching branches can root at tip.

## Management

Small plants can be pulled when the soil is moist. Larger plants can be cut, but this must be done several times during the growing season for several years as the plant can re-sprout. Care should be taken to dry or burn all plant parts before disposal.



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