

WANTED: JAPANESE BARBERRY

(Berberis thunbergii)

Description: This spiny shrub is a familiar landscape plant valuable for its deer resistance, attractive green, purple or gold foliage, and ability to grow in sun and shade. It grows two to six feet tall, producing small, bright red fruits in fall. Like many invasive plants, Japanese Barberry leaves out early in spring and retains its leaves late into fall. It reproduces by seed, tip sprouting, and from the roots.

Environmental Threat: Japanese Barberry shades out native species in a wide variety of habitats because of its ability to grow in many soil and light conditions. Birds and animals spread the seed. It also takes over areas where deer eat surrounding vegetation while avoiding this spiny plant.

Known Locations: This invasive plant has escaped from our yards and can be found in southern Michigan along roadsides, streams and lakes, in old fields, and under the forest canopy. Watch for it in nature centers and natural areas of your local park.

What you can do: Consider replacing your Japanese Barberry with a native shrub such as Ninebark. If that is impractical, replace it with a non-fruiting cultivar. You can pull or dig small plants, be sure to get most of the root system to prevent resprouting. Larger plants can be cut in late summer to fall and the stumps immediately painted with an herbicide to prevent sprouting. Consult a knowledgeable person before attempting to do this yourself. Be sure to take great care when using chemicals. **READ AND FOLLOW THE LABEL!**



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