

COMMON (EUROPEAN) BARBERRY

Berberis vulgaris



Robert Videcki — Bugwood.org

Mature Height	Up to 15 feet	Soil Type	Loamy to Clay
Mature Spread	6 feet	Flower Color	Yellow
Mature Form	Shrub	Foliage Color	Dull Green Above, Grayish Below
Growth Rate	Average	Fall Color	Leafless Stems
Sun Exposure	Prefers Full Sun to Part Shade		
Soil Moisture	Prefers moist soils		

Common Barberry is native to Europe and is not only an invasive plant that shades out native plants robbing them of moisture and growing room but it is the alternate host of black stem rust of small grains. It was the object of a large scale removal project in the 1930's in the North Central Part of the US. Populations were reduced significantly at that time but they still exist. It is found in open woodlands, fence rows, along roads. It produces a large number of seeds that are moved to other locations by birds and small mammals. Spines are double and triple branched. It spreads by seed and rhizomes. Control is by pulling young plants (wearing heavy gloves) and being sure that all root fragments are removed. Grubbing isolated plants is also effective. Chemical control of large infestations is by systemic herbicide containing glyphosate or triclopyr.



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Photos by Leslie Mehrhoff—Bugwood.org



This fact sheet was developed by the West Central Indiana Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) with funding by the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust. The CWMA consists of 27 western and central Indiana counties and strives to help land users identify and control invasive terrestrial plants through workshops, field days and other educational activities.

