

# ORIENTAL BITTERSWEET

*Celastrus orbiculatus*



Hoosier Heartland RC & D

<b>Mature Height</b>	Vines to tops of trees—80 + feet	<b>Soil Type</b>	All types
<b>Mature Spread</b>	Vines to end of tree limbs	<b>Flower Color</b>	Greenish
<b>Mature Form</b>	Vines	<b>Foliage Color</b>	Green
<b>Growth Rate</b>	Fairly Rapid	<b>Fall Color</b>	Green till leaf drop
<b>Sun Exposure</b>	Sun to forest shade		
<b>Soil Moisture</b>	Moist		

Oriental bittersweet is a rapidly spreading deciduous, twining vine. The outer surface of its roots are characteristically bright orange. Small greenish flowers occur in clusters in the leaf axils. It differs from the native bittersweet in that the fruits are found continuously along branches rather than just at the ends. Main stems of up to 4 inches in diameter have been found. The heavy plants often cover entire trees causing death and wind throws. Spread both by seed moved by birds and by root suckering. Small plants can be controlled by pulling. Larger plants are best controlled by cutting the stem near the ground and treating the stump with a systemic herbicide such as triclopyr or glyphosate immediately after cutting. Large areas like the one in the center below are more easily controlled with a foliar spray.



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Dubois Soil and Water Conservation District



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Development of this fact sheet was funded by the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust. The West Central Indiana Cooperative Weed Management Area consist 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.

