WISCONSIN WILDCARDS

ALIEN INVADERS

ORIENTAL BITTERSWEET

Celastrus orbiculatus

BASIC ID

This woody vine has rounded leaves and fruits appear in clusters of 2-4 in leaf axils. When ripe, the yellow outer membrane splits exposing a reddish-orange fruit. Stems can reach up to 4" in diameter. Native bittersweet has longer, tapered leaves and larger clusters of red fruits at the end of stems.

FACTS

Native to Asia, this vine starts by smothering the ground layer vegetation and climbs trees, sometimes pulling them down. It can be found in grasslands, roadsides, and forests and can hybridize with American bittersweet posing genetic risk.

MANAGEMENT

- Apply herbicide to cut stems
- Hand pull seedlings or small infestations
- Apply foliar herbicide after first hard frost
- Monitor for regrowth

FOR MORE INFORMATION

http://dnr.wi.gov/invasives

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