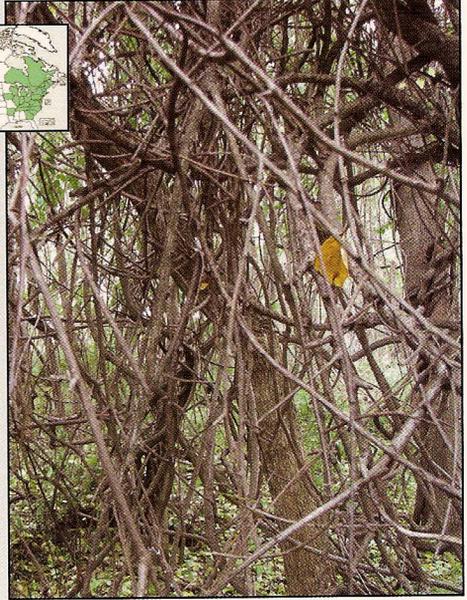
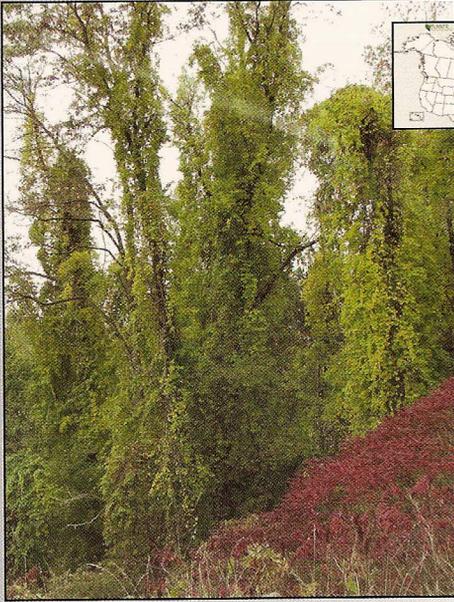


# *Celastrus orbiculatus* - Oriental Bittersweet

Family: Celastraceae  
Native to: Japan, China



Oriental Bittersweet-*Celastrus orbiculatus*

Oriental Bittersweet invasion, Concord, NH

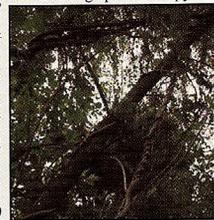
**Description:** Deciduous vine reaching heights of 40-60'. **Bark:** Tannish, furrowed. **Leaves:** Alternate, ovate, bluntly toothed, 3-4" long by 2/3's as wide, tapered at the base. **Flowers:** Small, greenish, blooming in spring. **Fruit:** Yellow dehiscent capsule surrounding an orange-red aril. *Fruits occur in the axils of the stems whereas native bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*) fruits at the ends.* **Zone:** 4-8. **Habitat:** Disturbed edges, roadsides, fields, forests and along rivers and streams. **Spread:** Birds and humans. **Comments:** Very aggressive, climbs up and over trees and smothers them. Do not buy wreaths made of these vines. **Controls:** Difficult to manage. Cutting, pulling, or recommended herbicide use applied to foliage, bark, or cut-stump.



Looking up into canopy



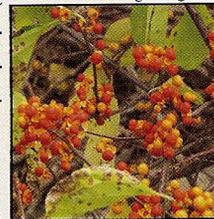
Leaves



Native trees being strangled



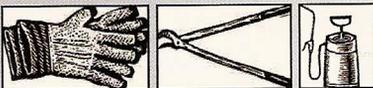
Flowers yellowish-white



Mature Orange-yellow fruit



Fruit is a fleshy capsule



Photos by Douglas Cygan