

Japanese barberry

Berberis thunbergii

VERY INVASIVE – upcoming in the Arrowhead

Invasive habitat: shaded and open forests, wetlands, old fields, and disturbed areas.

Native range: Eastern Asia



Known in the Arrowhead



IDENTIFICATION



Growth form: deciduous spiny shrub with curving branches that grows to be 3-6' tall. Lower branches root freely, enabling vegetative reproduction.



Flowers: yellow flowers grow in clusters of 2-4 and bloom in May.



Leaves: leaves are smooth, rounded, and grow in clusters above single spines.



Seeds: fruits are bright red berries that mature in August and remain on the shrub through winter. Seeds are dispersed by birds.

CONTROL



Manual: pulling or digging small infestations is effective. Remove all roots and re-sprouts.



Chemical: glyphosate (cut stump, foliar), triclopyr (cut stump, basal, foliar), metsulfuon-methyl (foliar)



Prescribed fire: burn in early spring or late fall.



Cultural: do not plant cultivars ornamentally.



Mechanical: repeated mowing of small stems will control the species; mow before seed set.