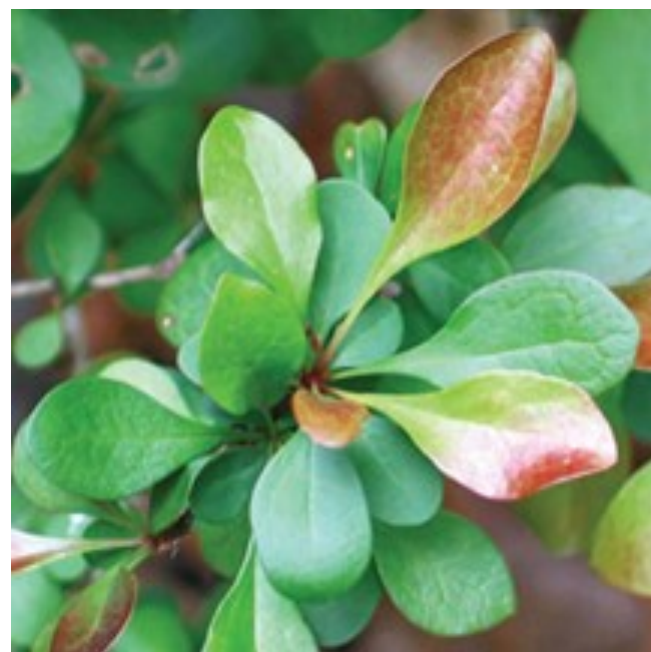


Berberis thunbergii, Japanese Barberry

This plant can easily form dense stands, often growing in forests, open woodlands, fields, and other areas. Japanese Barberry can lead to changes in the surrounding soil chemistry as its many leaves decompose, making the pH more basic. Infestations of this plant can displace various herbaceous and woody plants as well as raise tick populations.



Description: Japanese Barberry is a deciduous shrub, ranging from three to six feet in height. The branches are brown and the leaves are small and shaped like stretched out raindrops, or narrow ovals. The leaf coloring can range from green to dark reddish-purple. Leaves grow in a whorl-like pattern around an axis on the spiny stem.



Control: Japanese Barberry can be removed manually by pulling from the ground. A weed wrench can be used to uproot bigger/older shrubs. They can also be mowed or cut repeatedly. Chemical herbicides, such as glyphosate or triclopyr are also an effective control. Gloves should be worn when controlling barberry due to the many small thorns.

Look-alikes: This plant looks similar to another invasive, European barberry (*B. vulgaris*), and the native Allegheny barberry (*B. Canadensis*). A distinguishing feature to focus on when identifying the Japanese Barberry is the simple spines, as opposed to 3-pronged spine branches.

Flower Time and Description: Flowering occurs in the spring. Flowers are a pale yellow, appearing along the length of the stem in clusters of two to four. There are red berries which appear in the fall and persisting through the winter in rows along the stem.

