

Euonymus fortunei, Wintercreeper

You have probably seen this plant used in landscaping much to the same effect as any number of ground covers with variegated leaves. Like those other invasive ground covers, it creates a carpet that smothers native plants.

Population Status: Confirmed- Schenectady Co.

Description: This vine is evergreen, keeping its color throughout every season. It gradually becomes woody with age but is most often somewhat thin and on the herbaceous level. It is quite shade tolerant and reproduces through vine growth and through seeds that are spread by animals and by water movement. Its leaves are glossy, simple, and entire. They have light venation and grow in opposite formation.

Control: Young plants can be hand-pulled but it is a hard plant to remove when mature.

Look-alikes: Partridge berry (native) and invasive species Common Periwinkle (Tier 4) and Japanese Honeysuckle (Tier 4), all have similar growth formation and leaf shape to Wintercreeper.

Flower Time and Description: Flowers are small and usually not present, though when found are a green-white color. The plant appears to be more likely to produce flowers when growing vertically in vine form, rather than horizontally across the forest floor.

