

WANTED

Japanese Barberry

Berberis Thunbergii

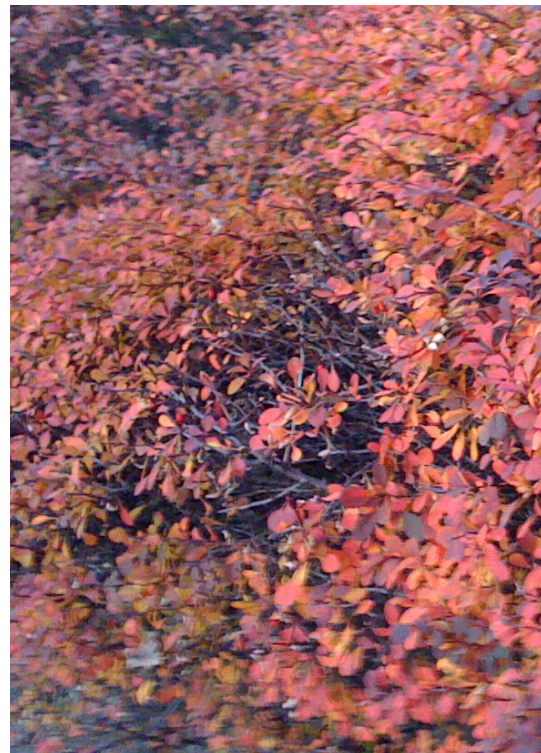
Japanese barberry is a dense woody shrub with numerous arching **spine-bearing** branches. It usually grows about three feet high, but occasionally reaches up to six feet. In the manor, most commonly found in hedges, or around street signs. Small yellow flowers appear in May, and the fruits—red oblong berries—persist on the plant into the following winter. In the fall, the leaves of Japanese barberry turn attractive shades of **red** and **orange**.



“Now found profusely throughout forests, pastures and meadows of the northeast, this highly adaptive, shade-tolerant plant is potentially capable of displacing native vegetation on a large scale.”*

See page 2 for alternatives to Barberry

* *An Introduction to Invasive Forest Plants in Westchester County, NY*
Cornell Cooperative Extension



MANAGEMENT OPTIONS

Japanese barberry is one of the first plants to leaf out in spring and is therefore easy to distinguish from other shrubs. Whole shrubs may be removed with a hoe or weed wrench. Use of thick or sturdy gloves is recommended to provide protection from the spines. Plants can resprout from roots, so remove as much of the roots as possible.

Alternatives for Japanese Barberry



A great native alternative is graceful, vase-shaped Virginia Sweetspire (*itea virginica*) shown in Lankester front yard



Non-native alternative: *Viburnum carlesii*, with added bonus of very fragrant white flowers in spring. In my mostly shady back yard.



Non-native alternative: a hybrid azalea from my mostly shady front yard.