

Putnam Valley Commission for Conservation of the Environment

**WHAT YOU DON'T WANT IN YOUR BACKYARD  
INVASIVE ORIENTAL BITTERSWEET**

The vines of the Oriental Bittersweet kill the trees, and dead trees could fall on your home, car, electrical lines, and even people and pets.



**April /May: Early growth of  
Oriental Bittersweet**



## June: Oriental Bittersweet becomes MORE Invasive





Mature vines girdling trees and killing them



**So what does it look like?**

**Fall: Oriental Bittersweet with Berries**



During the Winter Invasive Vines are easily visible on trees



## What is the best way to get rid of it?

Pull it out of the ground in early spring when the roots come out more easily. That way they won't continue to grow or spread. A young Oriental Bittersweet plant will have orange roots.

Make sure you put pulled plants on concrete or in a sealed garbage bag to make sure they die, and never throw them into a compost pile.





In July or August, cut the vines as they move up your trees. Start by cutting or pulling smaller vines from the ground.



Cut the largest ones at ground level, and then about one foot above that.



Cutting the vines will starve the roots. Do not try to pull vines off the tree, because the tree has been compromised and could fall on you. Once you have cut the rooted ends, the upper vines on the tree will start to die on their own.



Cut again if the root shows signs of regrowth. You will have to repeat yearly, and it might take up to three years before the vine will be completely dead. We don't recommend using herbicide sprays, because they are highly toxic to humans, animals, and the environment. Just be patient and diligent.



For more information on Bittersweet please reach out to us at:  
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