

SNEAK A PEEK INSIDE...

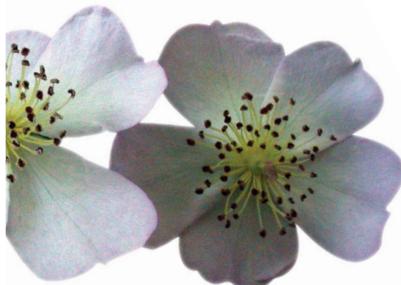


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A Guide to the  
**INVASIVE PLANTS**  
**at Rice Creek Field Station**  
**State University of New York at Oswego**

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Andrew P. Nelson - November 2011



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### Bittersweet Family—Celastraceae

**Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*):** A twining woody vine that can have stems as much as 10 cm (4 in) in diameter. This is a European species that has escaped from cultivation. It can cover shrubs and trees with a dense, heavy layer of foliage. It sprouts from the roots to form a dense colony of stems. Control is best achieved by cutting stems and applying herbicide to the fresh cut surface. Treated areas must be monitored for new sprouts coming from the root system. At Rice Creek, a large patch of oriental bittersweet was found in 2003 along the northern portion of the Orange Trail. It has since been eradicated. The plant has been found and treated with herbicide at additional sites along the trails and in second growth forest.

**Stems:** A twining woody vine, mature bark gray, tight, with network of surface ridges.

**Leaves:** Nearly round to broadly ovate in outline, borne singly on stem.

**Flowers:** Small, greenish, in clusters at the base of leaf stalks on the stem.  
Early summer.

**Fruits:** Light yellow-orange, splitting open to expose seeds enclosed in a bright red, fleshy layer of tissue (“aril”).




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A native species (*C. scandens*) with longer, narrower leaves and flower and fruit clusters at the tip of the stem also occurs at Rice Creek.

