

Japanese Barberry

Berberis thunbergii

Invasive Species in MA

Found in a wide range of habitats, including forests, wetlands, and pastures.



- Introduced to replace *Common Barberry*, which is vulnerable to disease
- Small (less than 6ft tall), spiny, deciduous shrub with oval green leaves and brown/red stems
- Yellow flowers and red berries also appear seasonally
- Often confused with *American Barberry*, which has toothed rather than smooth leaves

What makes it invasive?

- It forms fast growing, woody clumps that are difficult to remove.
- It also disrupts natural nitrogen cycling processes of the soil, harming its microbiome.

Learn more:



Placard posted as a Girl Scout Gold Award project by Anastasia Bruner, 2024.