

Japanese Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)



Key identifiers:

- deciduous shrub, twiggy and dense 3 to 6 feet tall
- early to leaf in spring, abundant pale yellow flowers occur along entire length of stem
- leaves ½ to 1 ½ inches long shaped like small spatulas, colors range from green to bluish green to dark reddish purple
- branches are deeply grooved, brown and usually have simple spines
- red berries will persist through the winter

Habitat:

- wide range; closed canopy forest, open woodland, wetland, pasture and meadow
- shade tolerant

Methods of reproduction and dispersal:

- seed, high germination rate, spread by birds and small mammals
- vegetative means

Management Approaches:

- small plants can be pulled by hand using thick gloves to avoid injury from the spines
- a weed wrench can be used to uproot older shrubs when the soil is moist.
- shrubs can also be mowed or cut repeatedly.
- Glyphosate and triclopyr are effective

Sources: Invasive.org

Nps.gov/plants/aliens/pubs Plant Invaders of Mid-Atlantic Natural Areas