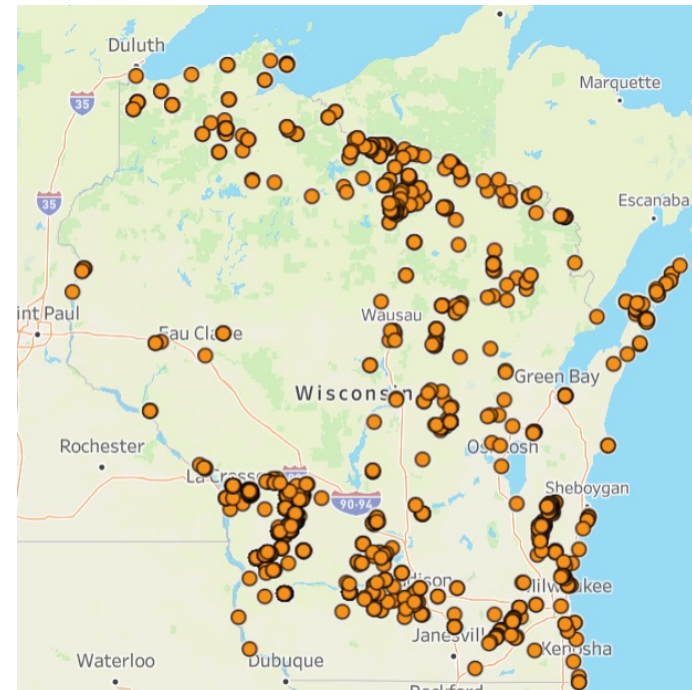


Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)



- Small, dense shrub with spiny, zigzag branches and yellow inner bark
- Habitats it invades:
 - Forests and swamps
 - Grasslands
 - Roadsides
- Status
 - Wisconsin: Restricted
 - Regulated in: IN, MN





Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)

Leaves alternate, simple

Anne Pearce, WIFDN



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University of Connecticut,
Bugwood.org

- Up to 1" long, held in tight clusters above the stem spines; leaves on new growth widely spaced
- Leaf margins entire; leaves almost appearing whorled
- Branches with zigzag growth
- Inner bark bright yellow



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Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)



Renz Weed Science
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL & LIFE SCIENCES
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Flower/fruit

- Flowers are cream-yellow, bowl-shaped, with 6 petals; April-May
- Flowers are borne hanging from the leaf clusters
- Fruit is a small red berry.





Barberry look alike

Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) and common barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*) may be confused with **native** gooseberries (*Ribes* spp.), especially in the winter, since gooseberries are also shrubs with spines along their stems.

During the growing season, **leaf size and shape** make it easy to differentiate these species. Gooseberries have 3+ lobes per leaf and barberries have unlobed leaves.



Species	Inner bark	Leaves	Flowers
Common barberry (<i>Berberis vulgaris</i>) I	Bright yellow	Oval-shaped, but wider near the tip, toothed along the margins	Cream-yellow, 6 petals, bowl-shaped
Japanese barberry (<i>Berberis thunbergii</i>) I	Bright yellow	Oval-shaped, but wider near the tip, margins entire	Cream-yellow, 6 petals, bowl-shaped
Gooseberries (<i>Ribes</i> spp.) N	Brown/tan	Fan-shaped, palmately-lobed , the margins with small teeth	Whitish or yellowish, 5 petals , tubular