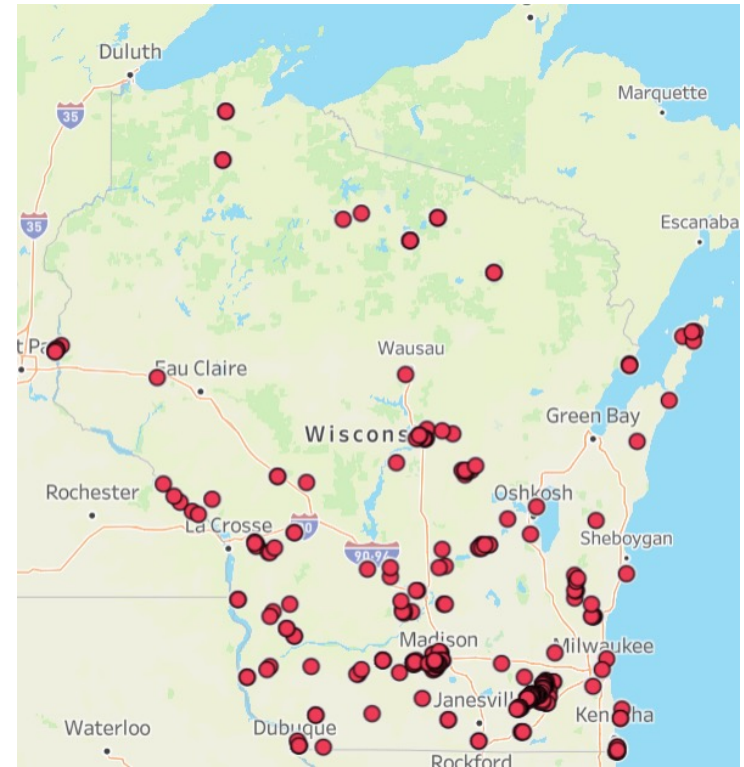


# Asian bitterweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)



- Woody vine with twining stems and rounded leaves
- Habitats it invades:
  - Forests
  - Roadsides
- Status
  - Wisconsin: Restricted
  - Regulated in: IL, IN, MN, OH





# Asian bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)

## *Leaves alternate, simple*



- 2-5" long, circular in outline, sometimes with a pointed tip
- Margins have rounded teeth
- Climbs by twining around other plants





# Asian bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)

## Flower/fruit

- Flowers are greenish, small, and not showy
- Flowers borne in the axils of the leaves; May-June
- Male and female flowers borne on separate plants
- Fruit is a capsule that opens to expose red seeds.



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# Asian bittersweet look alike

Invasive Asian bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) is easily confused with the **native** American bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*).



Asian bittersweet fruits

It is easiest to differentiate invasive from native bittersweet when the plants are flowering or in fruit.

Invasive bittersweet has **smaller clusters of flowers (and fruits) in leaf axils** while the native American bittersweet has **larger clusters of flowers (and fruits) at the ends of branches**.



Comparison of Asian and American bittersweet flower placement



American bittersweet fruits

The invasive and native bittersweets are also known to hybridize, which can make field identification difficult (or impossible!).