

Oriental bittersweet look alike

Invasive Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) and Asian bittersweet (*Celastrus loeseneri*) have the same characteristics and are easily confused with the native American bittersweet (*Celastrus scandens*).



Oriental 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 native American bittersweet has **larger cluster of flowers (and fruits) at the end of branches**.



Comparison of Oriental 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!).