

Oriental Bittersweet is an invasive plant found in many areas of Meredith.



Invasive Bittersweet Climbing a Cherry Tree at the Page Pond Town Forest

It is a tenacious vine that will climb over trees 50 feet tall.



As it grows the vine will strangle the tree and kill it.



The weight of the vines can also topple a tree over.



It can be identified by its twisting vines, its bright red and yellow berries, or its veined, oval leaves with toothed edges.



Small, new vines growing from dropped seeds can be pulled by hand, being careful to completely remove all the roots.



In late summer it puts out right red and yellow berries.



A mature plant produces thousands of berries which are spread by birds far and wide.

There are several methods of eradication; the simplest and most effective is the Cut and Paint method, which is described below. This method has minimal environmental impact and no impact to nearby desirable species from overspray.

More information on invasive species including insects, animals, and aquatic plants can be found at the [UNH Extension Service website here](#).

Cut and Paint with Herbicide:

[Detailed information on this method can be found here.](#) Below is a simple checklist for this approach:

Cut and Paint with Herbicide Checklist:

- ☐ Locate main root crowns (base of large vines)
- ☐ Identify all secondary runners and saplings
- ☐ Plan for treatments during **late summer–early fall** for optimal root uptake
- ☐ Wear gloves, goggles, and follow local herbicide regulations

Cutting

- ☐ Cut stems close to ground level (1–2 inches above soil)
- ☐ Make fresh cuts on all major vines and runners
- ☐ For large climbing vines, cut both **at waist height** and **near ground**

Herbicide Application

- ☐ Apply systemic herbicide (glyphosate 20–25% or triclopyr per label)
- ☐ Paint the freshly cut stump surfaces within **30 seconds**
- ☐ Ensure full coverage of the cut surface but avoid runoff
- ☐ Treat all stems, including small seedlings

Repeat Treatments

- ☐ Recheck site monthly during growing season
- ☐ Treat any resprouts using fresh cut-and-paint
- ☐ Repeat fall treatments for 1–2 additional years as needed

Seed and Spread Prevention

- ☐ Remove any fruiting vines before berries drop
- ☐ Bag and dispose of berries—do not compost
- ☐ Avoid disturbing soil where seeds may be present

Long-Term Management

- ☐ Confirm two consecutive seasons with no resprouts
- ☐ Plant native competitors (e.g., dogwood, viburnum, native clematis)
- ☐ Continue light annual monitoring