





Bittersweet (*Celastrus* spp.)

Notes:

There are two species of Bittersweet in Indiana, one is native and the other is not. Bittersweet sold in stores is generally the Oriental Bittersweet. The differences are small, but easy enough to distinguish if you look closely. The leaves have a different shape and the placement of the flowers on the stem is different. The berries have a slightly different look, but you'd have to look at a lot of them to be able to tell the difference without both together.

These species do grow practically side by side so, if you are planning to eradicate the Oriental Bittersweet from an area, be sure to identify them accurately.

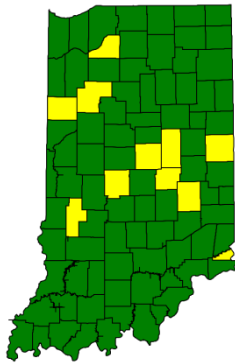
American Bittersweet <i>(Celastrus scandens)</i>	Oriental Bittersweet <i>(Celastrus orbiculatus)</i>
	
<p>American Bittersweet leaves are longer and pointier.</p>	<p>Oriental Bittersweet leaves are round and not pointy, hence the species name of orbiculatus.</p>
	
<p>American Bittersweet flowers and berries grow at the ends of the twigs.</p>	<p>Oriental Bittersweet flowers and berries grow along the stem.</p>



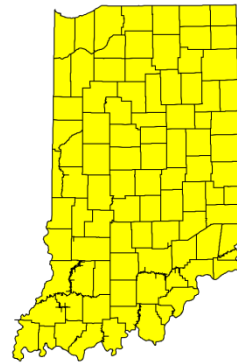
American Bittersweet berries are larger and more orange.



Oriental Bittersweet berries are smaller and more red.



* Green = counties with vouchered specimens
* Yellow = suspected range



Oriental Bittersweet escapes from cultivation and could be found across the state.