Japanese barberry (**Berberis thunbergii**)

**Origins:** Introduced from Japan in the 19th century as an ornamental plant, Japanese barberry escaped cultivation and is now listed as an invasive plant.

**How to Identify:**
- Dense, spiny shrub
- Grows 2-8 feet in height
- Small yellow flowers hang in umbrella shaped clusters along stem
- Branches are brown with deep grooves
- Berries are bright red and born on narrow stalks
- Leaves
  - Small and oval/spatula-shaped
  - No serrations along leaf margin

**Where to Look:** Japanese barberry is adaptable to a variety of open and wooded habitats, wetlands, and disturbed areas. The plant prefers to grow in full sun to part shade; however, it can fruit even in heavy shade.
Japanese barberry: Mechanical/Chemical Treatment Combined

- Repeatedly cut back barberry plants throughout early spring (March and April)
- Plants can grow to half their original size following cutting, so this step is the pretreatment
- Apply herbicide to leaves in the late summer/early fall following leaf out

Herbicide Information

**Treatment Options:**
- Hand-pulling/Grubbing,
- Mowing/Cutting/Burning,
- Cut Stump, Foliar Spray

**Recommended Active Ingredient:** Glyphosate and Triclopyr

The label is the law: Follow label instructions when mixing & applying any herbicide.
Japanese barberry: Manual Treatment

Hand pulling and/or digging out of root systems is effective for small populations of Japanese barberry - only if all root and stem tissue can be removed.

Pulling plants may cause root breakage which can result in regrowth and additional plants.

Only hand pulling plants when the soil is moist will help to prevent root breakage.

The root system of this species is shallow, and small plants can be relatively easy to dislodge in soft soils.
Japanese barberry: Chemical Treatment

Herbicide applications for larger shrubs include cut-stump treatments and foliar spray methods.

Cut Stump
• Apply herbicide immediately after cutting stumps
• This combined method of chemical and mechanical treatment is labor intensive, but effective

Foliar Spray
• Apply herbicide to shrubs eye level and below - be aware of drift towards face
• Coat all leaves to the point of runoff, but DO NOT allow runoff of herbicide

Herbicide Application Frequency: Only one application is needed (may need to re-apply to any new sprouts).

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Important: Always follow instruction on herbicide labels for concentrations needed and how to mix herbicides.

Additional Information for Herbicide Use


For information on basal bark, broadcast soil, cut stump, dormant spray, or foliar spray application of herbicide please see: http://anr.ext.wvu.edu/r/download/108632

For information on Hack and Squirt (Stem Injection), Foliar Spray, Basal, or cut stump application of herbicide please see: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/ag245