

## **A holiday PSA: Avoid invasive oriental bittersweet in your holiday decorations**

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As the holiday season nears and everyone is excited to assemble their festive displays, it's important to know what is in your holiday decor and avoid the use of oriental bittersweet, an invasive vine.

[Oriental bittersweet](#) is an invasive species, meaning it is not-native to Michigan and causes harm to our environment. This invasive vine grows quickly, outcompeting native plants and shading or choking the shrubs and trees it grows on. Oriental bittersweet produces berries that stay on the vine through the fall and winter seasons, and unaware citizens will use it to make holiday wreaths and decorations. The transport of the berries (seeds) and composting decor with oriental bittersweet spreads the invasive vine to new areas.

You can help protect Michigan habitats by not using oriental bittersweet in your decor. Know what to look for- a woody vine with bright red berries that have yellow outer capsules.



Photo: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

Learn more about oriental bittersweet and [best practices](#) to manage it, as well as how to [properly dispose of invasive plants](#). The Mid-Michigan CISMA is funded in part by the Michigan Invasive Species Grant Program ([www.michigan.gov/invasives](http://www.michigan.gov/invasives)).