



Oriental Bittersweet Vine

BVGC EXTERMINATION – VINE REMOVAL & HERBICIDES

Bittersweet is a highly invasive vine for which we recommend its removal. This can be done most effectively with the judicious use of herbicides. If done, without herbicides, it is best to follow a yearly maintenance plan.

ERRADICATION PROCEDURES

- Hand Pulling:** Hand pull young vines that reside in loose/damp soil. Keep in mind that pulling older vines could significantly disrupt the soil matrix. Roots can be long, and any remaining root will grow but it will knock back the plant significantly. Best done in the springtime.
- Cutting:** It is best to cut the vines when there is no foliage on the plant so autumn -early spring. Sever the vine completely about 4 feet from base and again about 1-2 feet from ground. This will allow you to locate and monitor the plant more easily.
 - Winter/Spring:** If you cut the plant as it is beginning to have foliage, paint the remaining root immediately after cutting. Otherwise, wait until plants shows signs of growth then recut and apply herbicide. ([Weed Wand Magic Applicator with 3 Replacement Tips \(amleo.com\)](#)).
 - Fall:** Immediately apply herbicide after severing vine. (*Fall is the best time to cut and treat the vine as energy is going into the roots to prepare for winter.*)
 - If you are not treating with herbicide, monitor the cut bittersweet vine every spring for signs of returned growth and recut.
- Herbicide:** Bittersweet tends to foliate early in spring. This is the best time to apply herbicide to the foliage. It is best to do this using a weed wand ([Smucker Red Weeder \(forestry-suppliers.com\)](#)) which does not accidentally contaminate other plants.
- Mowing:** If maintaining a field or forest edge with bittersweet growth, repeated mowing will knock the vines back over time.
- Disposal:** Carefully dispose of the bittersweet vines and root system by bagging them for trash removal. Vines can also be eliminated by burning in a brush pile. Do not compost as seeds or partial root systems will continue to grow.



HERBICIDES

- Use safety precautions when using herbicides to protect yourself and other non-target plants from contamination.
- Mass Audubon recommends a systemic, triclopyr-based herbicide such as Garlon® to treat bittersweet. Garlon® will kill any broad leaf plant but will not kill grasses.



Sever bittersweet vines several feet from ground
Inset – Apply herbicide to stump & monitor yearly