

Treeways

2014 - 10

Oriental Bittersweet and Other Vines

Oriental bittersweet, *Celastrus orbiculatus*, was found in October along Acorn Drive in Sunfish Lake and the first stage of eradicating the infestation has begun. This non-native vine is a prohibited noxious weed on the eradicate list and this means that all of the above and belowground parts of the plant must be destroyed. Oriental bittersweet was introduced to North America for its attractive fall fruiting branches and escaped leading to infestations that severely damage MN woodlands and grasslands. The vines can be over 60' long and they can strangle, shade out, or even pull down mature trees. There is only one known infestation in Sunfish Lake, but there are likely more so your help in locating other infestations will be appreciated. There are excellent resources online or contact me at 612-803-9033 or jim@lstreecare.com for more information.

Other native vines found in the City include wild grape, Virginia creeper, virgin's bower and cucumber vine and these can become a problem when they grow over your trees and shrubs. Grape vines are the worst native offenders and can damage or kill your landscape plants or evergreens by shading out the foliage or in some cases breaking down large branches. Usually grapevines grow most aggressively at the edges of woodlands. They are easily controlled by cutting and pulling out the roots if the vines are small or cutting the vine near the ground and treating the cut stump with brush killer. The cut vines should be removed from the affected trees.

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