

Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) Identification



Overall: woody vine that twines and climbs

Leaves: alternate, with serrated edges and rounded teeth, round/teardrop/football-shaped, turn yellow in fall

Bark: brown or gray, older plants have furrowed bark and can have trunks over 4" in diameter

Flowers: small, green/yellowish, in clusters in the leaf axils along entire stem, bloom May-June

Fruit: round, yellow, in clusters in the leaf axils along the entire stem, fruit casings later split open to expose a bright red, three-sectioned fruit that is visible in winter

Photo to the right by Leslie J. Mehrhoff,
University of Connecticut,
Bugwood.org



Photo to the right by Chris Evans,
University of Illinois,
Bugwood.org

