

Japanese Barberry

Berberis thunbergii



General Description:

- Shrub: Thorny, deciduous; ~5-8' tall
- Leaves: Very small (1/2 x 1/2"), oval, green, bluish-green, or dark reddish-purple
- Stem: Brown, deeply grooved, and bears a single very sharp spine at each node

Prominent Features:

- Fruit: Bright red berries ~1/3" long on narrow stalks
- Needle-like spine at each node
- Note: Barberry shelters ticks, which cause Lyme disease

How to Remove:

- Small plants: Wear thick gloves to pull by hand; **thorny!**
- Larger plants: Cut to the stump and use a tool such as a weed wrench/shovel to uproot plants

Look Alikes: Common barberry (*B. vulgaris*)

- Also invasive but not very common in Massachusetts
- Leaves have toothed margins, spine branches at nodes



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