

Winter Weed I.D.

Garlic mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)



What to look for:

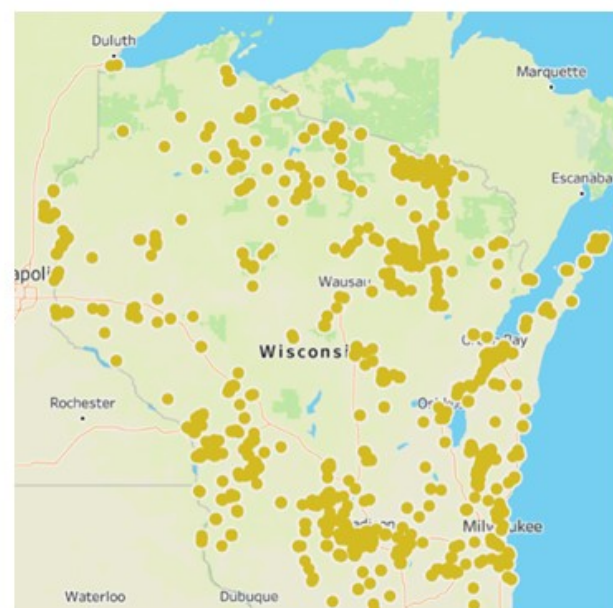
- Stays green through winter
- Basal rosette of kidney-shaped leaves; scalloped edges
- Smells like garlic

Where to look:

- Upland forests, floodplain forests, yards, roadsides

Look-alikes:

- Creeping Charlie leaves looks similar but are smaller; its creeping growth also differs from garlic mustard



Think you've found garlic mustard? Let us know!

Send a report (date, photographs, + location) with the GLEDN app or email WIFDNcoordinator@gmail.com



Winter Weed I.D.

Spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*)



*Bract with
black tip*



What to look for:

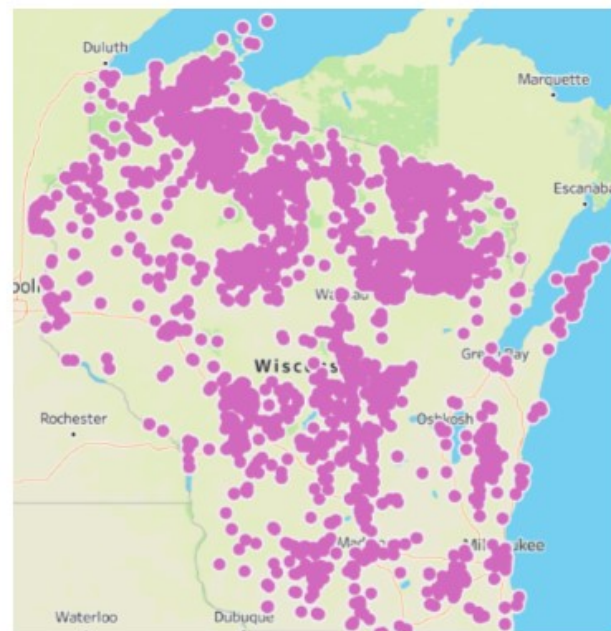
- Dried herbaceous plant with many stems and many small (~ 1/2 inch) flowerheads
- Flowerheads have bracts at base. Each bract has black tip

Where to look:

- Roadsides, sandy/dry areas, grasslands

Look-alikes:

- Other aster family plants may also have standing dead stems with many flowerheads. Knapweed is distinguished by the black-tipped bracts.



Think you've found invasive spotted knapweed? Let us know!

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Winter Weed I.D.

Common Tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*)



What to look for:

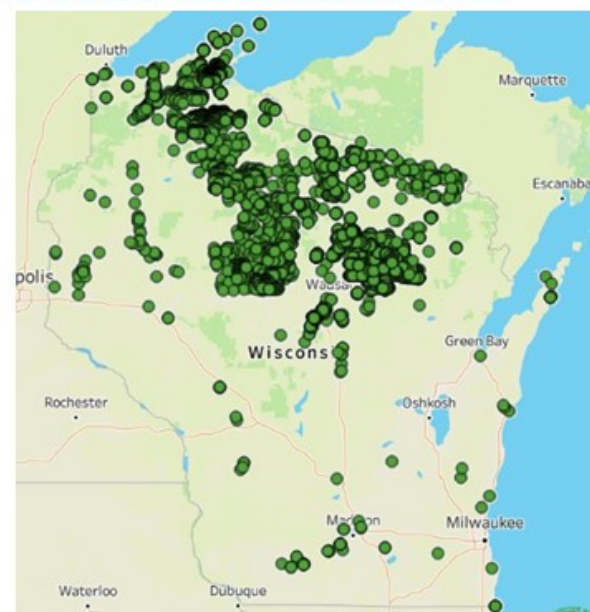
- Flat-topped clusters of brown, button-shaped flowers
- Feathery leaves may still be present on 2-5' tall stem

Where to look:

- Roadsides, disturbed areas, fields

Look-alikes:

- Some asters and goldenrods may appear similar in winter. They will have feathery seeds, while tansy does not.



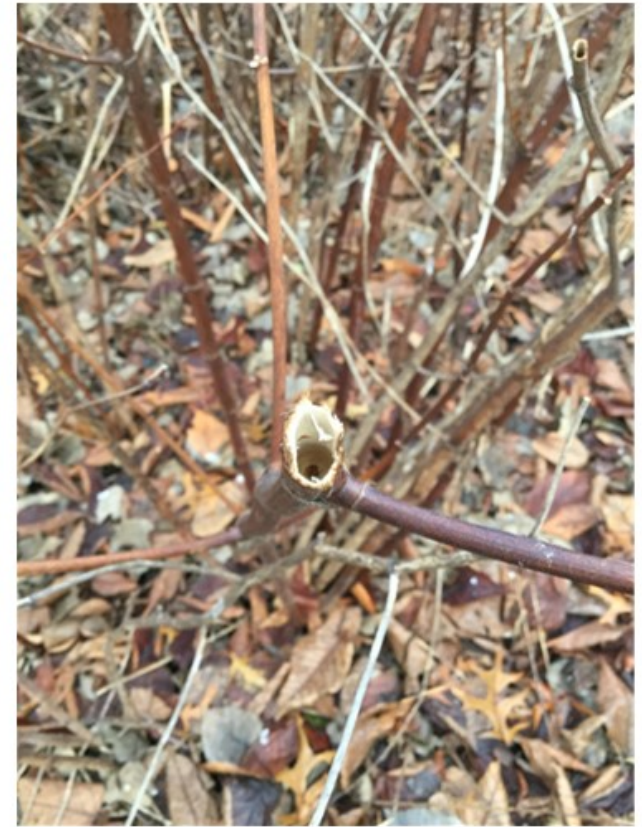
Think you've found invasive common tansy? Let us know!

Send a report (date, photographs, + location) with the GLEDN app or email WIFDNcoordinator@gmail.com



Winter Weed I.D.

Japanese knotweed (*Reynoutria japonica*)



What to look for:

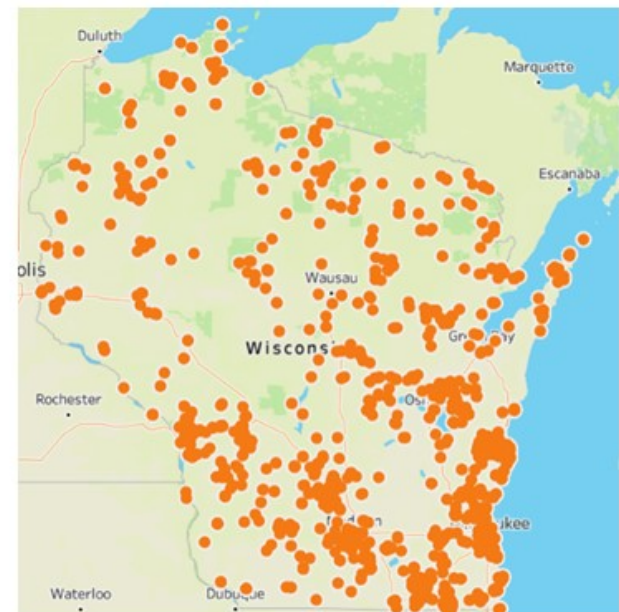
- Standing dead arching hollow stalks, swollen nodes
- Reddish-brown color
- May see flower stalks remaining along stem

Where to look:

- Forested riparian areas, roadsides, upland and lowland sites that are disturbed and undisturbed

Look-alikes:

- Giant knotweed and Bohemian knotweed are other invasive knotweeds that look similar, but larger. These species should also be reported.



Think you've found invasive knotweed? Let us know!

Send a report (date, photographs, + location) with the GLEDN app or email WIFDNcoordinator@gmail.com



Winter Weed I.D.

Bush honeysuckles (*Lonicera spp.*)



Photo credits (L to R): Anne Pearce; Kathy Smith, OSU Extension; Anne Pearce



What to look for:

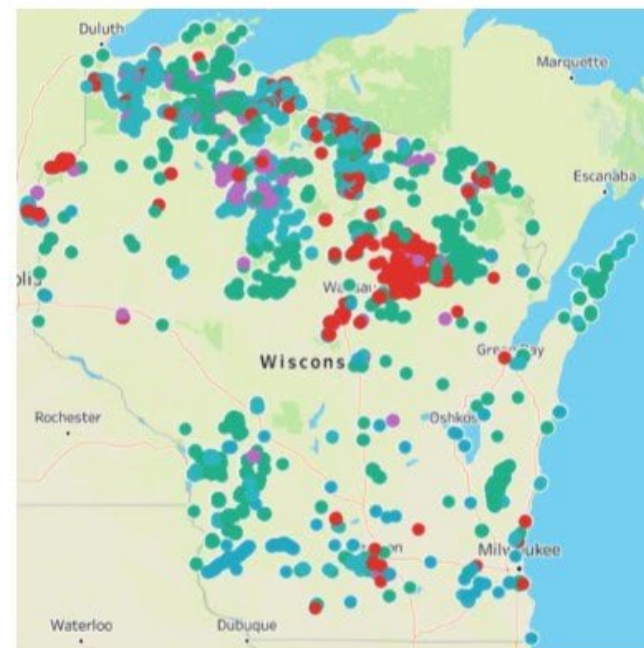
- Shrub with many arching branches; opposite branching
- Bark looks shreddy; may retain dried leaves in winter
- Center of branch (pith) is hollow

Where to look:

- Urban areas, forests + forest edges, pastures, roadsides

Look-alikes:

- Elderberry and ninebark also have many arching branches. Elderberries have opposite branching but not shreddy bark. Ninebark has shreddy bark but alternate branching.



Think you've found invasive honeysuckle? Let us know!

Send a report (date, photographs, + location) with the GLEDN app or email WIFDNcoordinator@gmail.com



Winter Weed I.D.

Common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*)



Winter buds often resemble a deer hoof. Easiest to see at tip of branch.



Photo credits (L to R): S. Katovich, Bugwood.org; A. Pearce; L.J. Mehrhoff, Bugwood.org; J.M. Randall, Bugwood.org

What to look for:

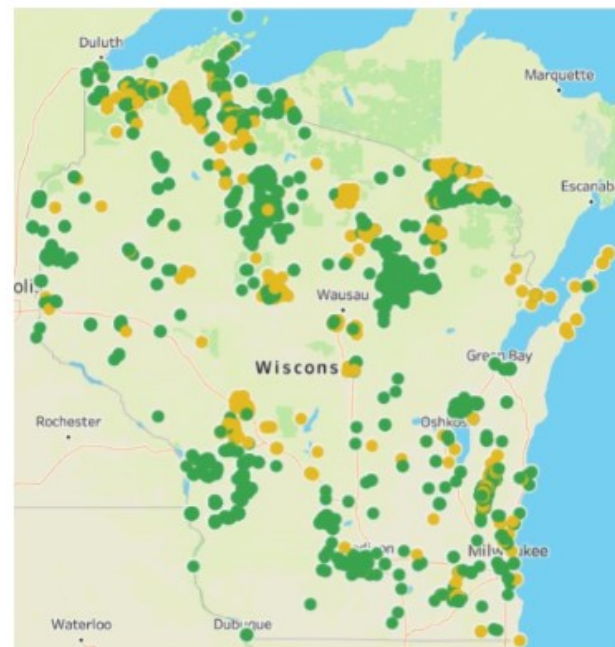
- Shrubs/small trees, shiny dark grey bark with dark lenticels. Inner bark bright orange.
- Buds in pairs on stem resemble deer hoof. Often thorn protrudes from tip of stem.
- Female plants have clusters of dark fruits

Where to look:

- Woods, field edges, urban environments, roadsides

Look-alikes:

- *Prunus* sp. (cherries, plums) can have similar-looking bark but lack the "deer hoof" buds + orange inner bark



Think you've found common buckthorn? Let us know!

Send a report (date, photographs, + location) with the GLEDN app or email WIFDNcoordinator@gmail.com



Winter Weed I.D.

Glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*)



Photo credits (L to R): L.J. Mehrhoff, Bugwood.org; A. Pearce



What to look for:

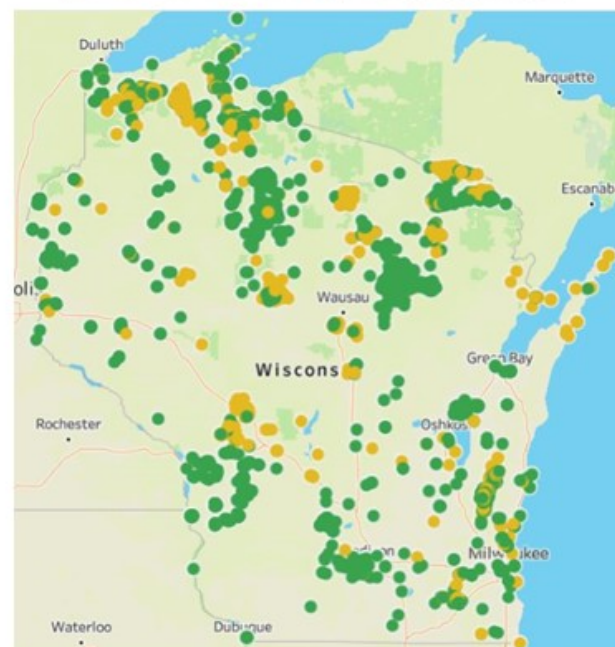
- Shrubs/small trees, tan to brown bark with white lenticels
- Inner bark orange
- Buds are soft, fuzzy, and rust-colored
- Toothless leaves with parallel veins may remain on plant

Where to look:

- Wetlands, woods, field edges, urban areas, roadsides

Look-alikes:

- *Prunus* sp. (cherries) can have similar-looking bark but their buds are hard and sharp-pointed



Think you've found glossy buckthorn? Let us know!

Send a report (date, photographs, + location) with the GLEDN app or email WIFDNcoordinator@gmail.com



Winter Weed I.D.

Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)



Photo credits (L to R): Peter Dziuk, minnesotawildflowers.info; Leslie J. Mehrhoff, U. Conn., Bugwood.org; Anne Pearce



What to look for:

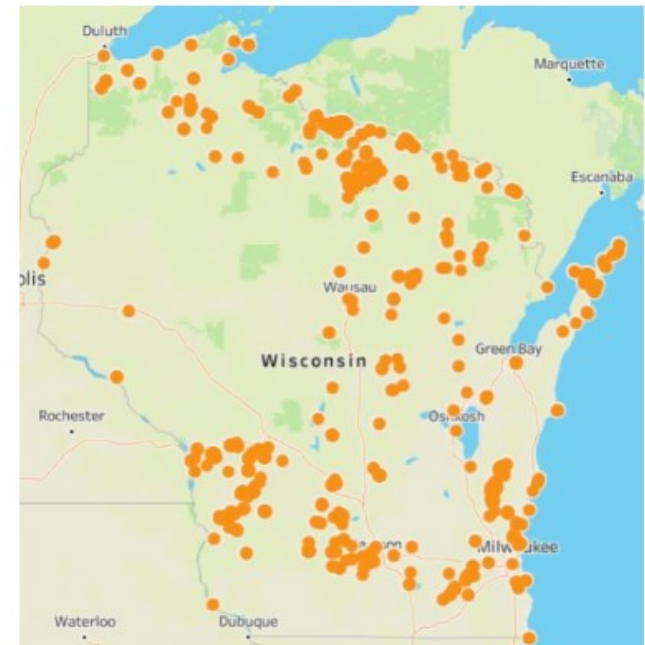
- Arching reddish-brown grooved stems
- Fluorescent yellow inner bark
- Pairs of 1 cm long red fruits at node with single spines

Where to look:

- Forests, forest edges, shorelines, urban areas

Look-alikes:

- Native gooseberry (*Ribes*) species also have spines along their stems but are also covered in smaller prickles/hairs



Think you've found Japanese barberry? Let us know!

Send a report (date, photographs, + location) with the GLEDN app or email WIFDNcoordinator@gmail.com



Winter Weed I.D.

Autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*)



Photo credits: Robert Videki, Bugwood.org (L); Leslie J. Mehrhoff, Bugwood.org (center, R)



What to look for:

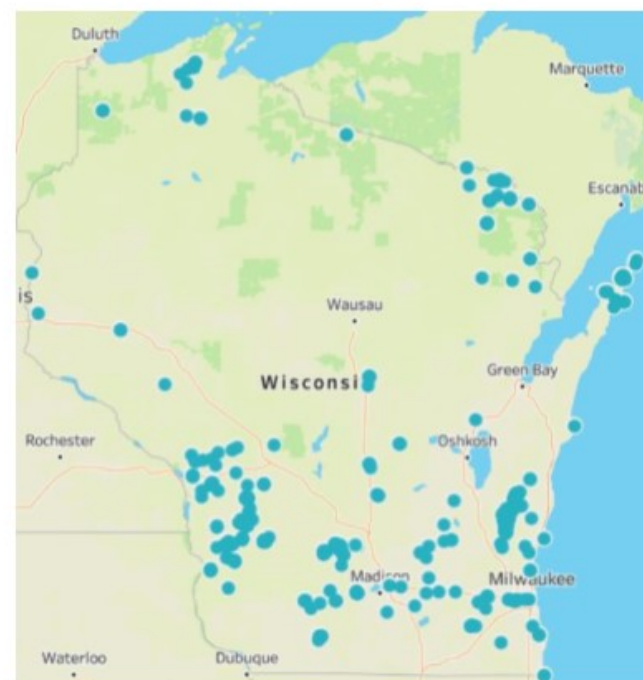
- Shrub 3-20 ft tall with many alternate branches, sometimes with thorns
- Copper-colored scales, especially covering tips of twigs
- Clusters of 1/4-1/3 inch red fruits covered in silvery scales

Where to look:

- Urban areas, forests + forest edges, pastures, roadsides

Look-alikes:

- Buffalo berries (*Shepherdia spp.*) are native shrubs that are also covered in metallic-looking scales, but they have opposite branching



Think you've found invasive autumn olive? Let us know!

Send a report (date, photographs, + location) with the GLEDN app or email WIFDNcoordinator@gmail.com



Winter Weed I.D.

Winged burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*)



Photo credits (L to R): Peter Dziuk, minnesotawildflowers.info; Leslie J. Mehrhoff, U. Conn., Bugwood.org



What to look for:

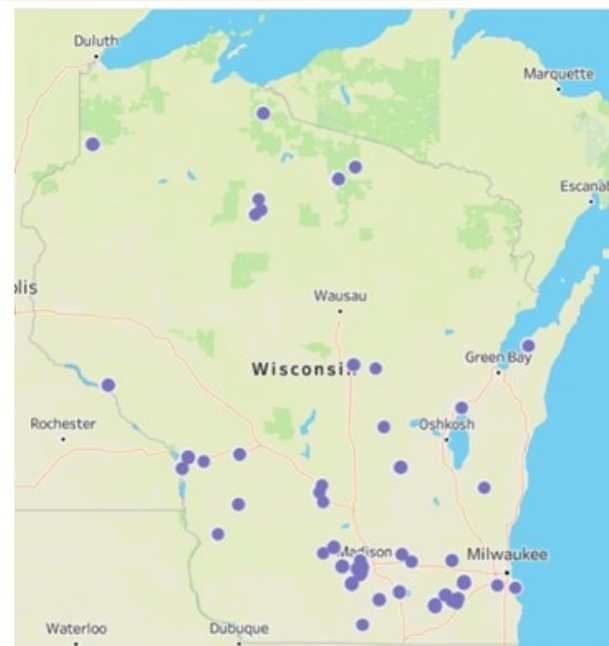
- Shrub with opposite branches
- Corky ridges on stems
- Red fruits (~1/2 inch), sometimes with pinkish-red capsule

Where to look:

- Forests, field edges, urban areas

Look-alikes:

- The corky wings on the stems of burning bush make it distinct from other shrubby species



Think you've found winged burning bush? Let us know!

Send a report (date, photographs, + location) with the GLEDN app or email WIFDNcoordinator@gmail.com



Winter Weed I.D.

Amur cork tree (*Phellodendron amurense*)

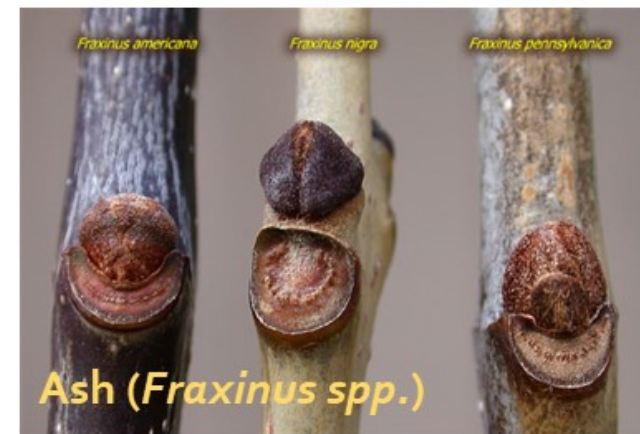
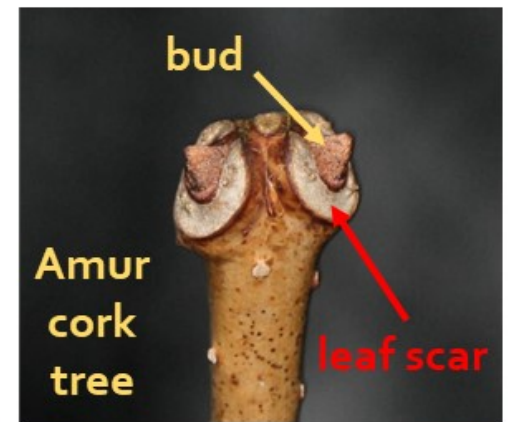


Photo credits (L to R): WIDNR; Christopher Gaetzke, LCIP; Arieh Tal, botphoto.com; Peter Dziuk, minnesotawildflowers.info

What to look for:

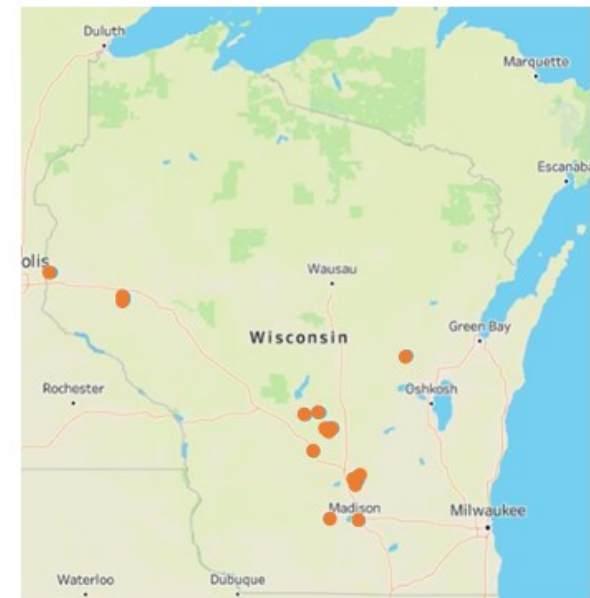
- Corky bark with neon yellow inner bark
- Clusters of dark-colored fruits
- Opposite branching with chocolate chip shaped buds.
- Leaf scar looks like cream-colored horseshoe around bud.

Where to look:

- Urban areas, forests

Look-alikes:

- Ash trees also have opposite branching and buds that look like chocolate chips. Leaf scars on ash trees are below the buds and do not extend around sides of bud.



Think you've found amur cork tree? Let us know!

Send a report (date, photographs, + location) with the GLEDN app or email WIFDNcoordinator@gmail.com



Winter Weed I.D.

Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)



Invasive Oriental bittersweet



Native bittersweet

What to look for:

- Woody vine, tan-colored bark. White lenticels on twigs.
- Fruits in clusters of 3-7 all along stems/branches
- Orange-red fruits are inside yellow-orange capsules

Where to look:

- Forest edges, hedge-rows, fields, woodlands
- Seasonal decorations often contain bittersweet

Look-alikes:

- American bittersweet (*C. scandens*) fruits are in larger clusters at the *ends* of branches. See photo at top right.



Think you've found Oriental bittersweet? Let us know!

Send a report (date, photographs, + location) with the GLEDN app or email WIFDNcoordinator@gmail.com



Winter Weed I.D.

Teasels (*Dipsacus spp.*)



All photos: Chris Evans, U. of IL, Bugwood.org

What to look for:

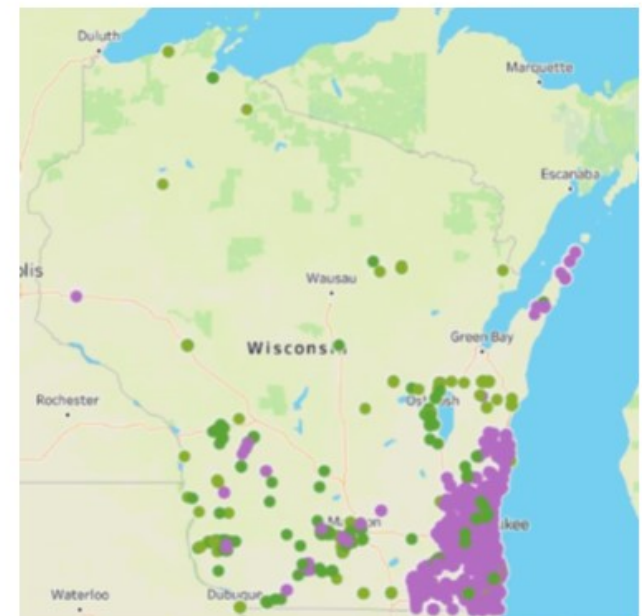
- Spiky, egg-shaped flowerheads
- Robust spiny stems, opposite leaves

Where to look:

- Roadsides, edges of parking lots, open areas

Look-alikes:

- Thistles also have spiny stems but not spiny flowerheads that remain on the plant through the winter



Think you've found teasel? Let us know!

Send a report (date, photographs, + location) with the GLEDN app or email WIFDNcoordinator@gmail.com



Winter Weed I.D.

Tips for identifying woody plants

When spring seems far away or you just don't have the patience to look at buds on woody plants, try this method for identifying woody invasive plants:

1. Find a woody plant you want to identify
2. Cut a branch and place the cut branch in water
3. Place it by a sunny window and wait for leaves
4. Use a "regular" field guide to learn more about your plant

If you cut branches from multiple plants, make sure to mark the plant and the cut branch in the same way (maybe with flagging tape, twist-ties, or string) so you can compare later!

This is also a great way to learn what to look for in the spring, such as the coppery scale-covered emerging leaves on autumn olive.



Think you've found an invasive species? Let us know!

Send a report (date, photographs, + location) with the GLEDN app or email WIFDNcoordinator@gmail.com

