



Braided network of bittersweet up a tree.

## CONTROL

Preventing seed production and dispersal are critical in controlling this species, but stopping its destructive impacts on the trees and shrubs that support it is also extremely important. A combination of mechanical and chemical methods are useful in meeting all of these goals.

## DISPOSAL OF PLANT PARTS

If fruit/seed are not present, cut vines can be left in-place to decay. Fruit/seed should be incinerated or bagged and disposed of in a landfill. Although landscape waste cannot generally be disposed of in landfills, Michigan law permits the disposal of invasive species plant parts in regular trash. Stems and roots (without fruit/seed) that have been pulled can also be left on site as long there is no chance of re-rooting.

**Be part of the solution when it comes to invasive species by taking action to prevent their spread. When a non-native plant or animal causes harm to the area it's introduced to, it's viewed as "invasive".**

The Kent Conservation District's focus is to assist landowners with habitat restoration and invasive species control. The KCD's Invasive Species Strike Team has trained, licensed applicators available for support or on-site treatment. To schedule a consultation, invasive species treatment or set up a service learning work day in your community, contact [kentstriketeam@gmail.com](mailto:kentstriketeam@gmail.com)

To learn more:

- [www.InvasivesActionKent.org](http://www.InvasivesActionKent.org)
- [www.Michigan.gov/documents/dnr/Oriental\\_Bittersweet\\_389123\\_7.pdf](http://www.Michigan.gov/documents/dnr/Oriental_Bittersweet_389123_7.pdf)
- Midwest Invasive Species Network  
[www.MISIN.msu.edu](http://www.MISIN.msu.edu)
- Michigan Invasive Species Coalition  
[www.Michiganinvasives.org](http://www.Michiganinvasives.org)
- Michigan Association of Conservation Districts  
[www.macd.org/](http://www.macd.org/)
- West Michigan Conservation Network  
[www.wmconservation.net](http://www.wmconservation.net)

A round of applause to Ginny Wanty, Tina Lee-Cronkhite, John Lemmons, KCD staff & volunteers, Friends of Conservation, and Cascade Community Foundation.



# INVASIVE Bittersweet

More Bitter Than Sweet:  
The invasive vine that is taking over healthy forest communities



A Helping Hand For Healthy Lands  
Kent Conservation District

## Control Methods

JAN	FEB	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
CUT STUMP							CUT STUMP				
						FOLIAR SPRAY					
						HAND PULL					

*Preventing seed production and dispersal is critical in controlling this invasive species, but stopping its destructive impacts on the trees and shrubs is also extremely important.*

**1. CUT STUMP** (June–February) Cut vines close to the ground. Apply herbicide within 5 minutes of cutting, using a sponge applicator. Vines can be left in the trees to decompose. This technique works best in the fall. If used at other times of the year re-sprouting can occur.

**NOTE:** Use an approved concentrated herbicide containing 14% triclopyr or 50% glyphosate.

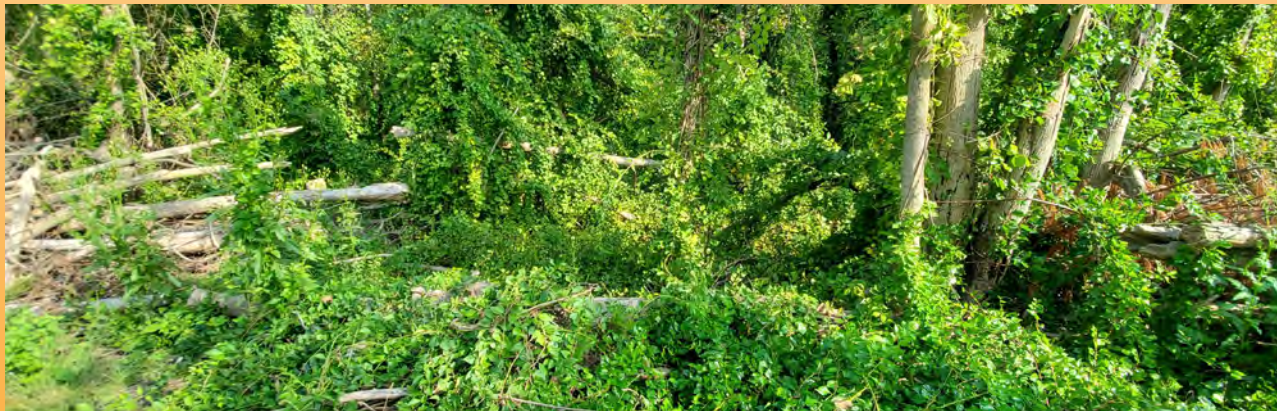
**2. FOLIAR SPRAY** (July–September) Apply herbicide to leaves using a sprayer. In general, this technique will have a deeper root-kill if used in late summer or fall but can be used to top kill the plant in the spring and summer.

**NOTE:** Use a foliar approved herbicide spray with triclopyr.

**3. HAND PULL** (April–October) Pull young vines and their roots by hand. Walk with the roots while pulling them up in order to get rid of the entire underground system. Pulled vegetation must be bagged and removed from the area. Monitor area for re-sprouting. This technique is only useful on very young plants.

**Read the entire pesticide label before use. Follow all directions on the label because *the label is the law*. Avoid contact with non-target plants as well as pollinators.**

Forest covered with bittersweet



Invasive bittersweet plants will cover trees with the vines up to eight inches in diameter, climbing up to seventy feet, and thus strangling and bringing down mature trees by sheer weight.



**Left:** American Elm consumed by invasive bittersweet vines.

**Below:** Damage to tree from the uncontrolled effects of bittersweet.

