



Arlington - MA - Invasives

ArMI Army

Veterans Mem. Basketball Courts Arlington - Elaine Crowder | Bikeway Arlington - Elaine Crowder | Edited Landmark 3, CC BY-SA 3.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0/>> | Arlington Gt. Meadows - latymightydoms - iNaturalist

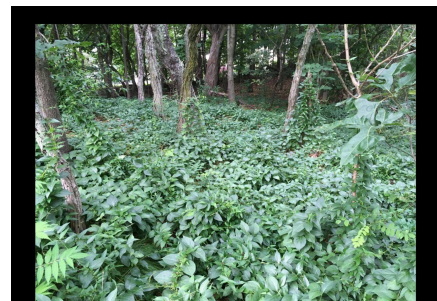
Hill's Hill Woods & Fields Newsletter

Hello Neighbors ... The Arlington-MA Invasives "ArMI" Army is growing, thanks to our Independence Weekend demos of how to identify and remove **black swallow-wort** and **Oriental bittersweet**.

Get those STRANGLERS out!

Black swallow-wort and **Oriental Bittersweet** relentlessly take over an area, strangling all plants in their path. We focused efforts on: 1) a large Black Swallow-wort patch in the middle of Hill's Hill and 2) both species on both sides of the basketball court fence. **Black Swallow-wort** starts as a small, dark-leaved vine. But it has formed a dense stand in Hill's Hill that covers seedlings and shrubs, out-competing

native oak and grasses. It spreads via root webs and silky, milk-weed style, floating seed tufts. It's toxic to humans and dogs, and is **deadly!** to Monarch butterflies. Seed



Before - Jun 2021



Removal in progress - Jul 2021

pod started forming early this summer at the beginning of July. We often saw both pods and flowers on the same plant. Cutting vines removes all.

Swallow-wort breaks at the soil line if you pull it, leaving roots in place. So ... **Loosen soil with a pitchfork, wiggle**, reach under and **remove the spaghetti-like root crowns**, or at least **cut off all seed pods** to prevent sending seeds aloft to neighbors ...

Oriental Bittersweet loves to climb. We cut this tower July 4th at the Ed Burns basketball court; it's twin was cut last year. The banner photo (p. 1) shows a) typical rounded to oblong leaf form (sometimes ending in a curved tip), b) berries forming all along the stem, c) orange roots that serve as super highways, connecting one out-crop with another, and d) the ripe Fall berries,



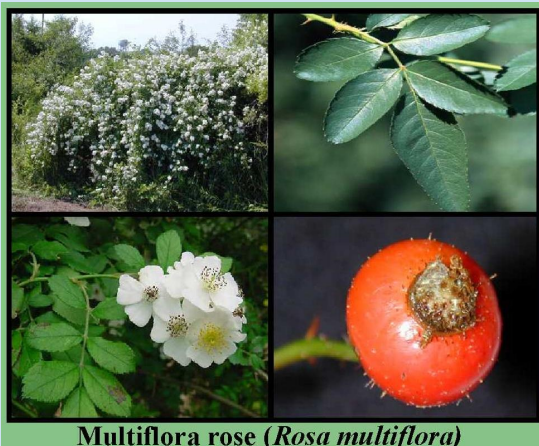
with outer yellow casing popped open to reveal red-orange berries.

Oriental bittersweet is best controlled in



Stages. First quickly clip all vines about a foot from the ground, so you can find them later. Remove and bag vines with berries. Then if you have the time and energy ... **Dig out those roots!**

Next UP in July-August: Oriental Bittersweet | Multiflora rose



Multiflora rose (*Rosa multiflora*)

We could use your help ...

Join our invasives removal "ArMI" army (*Arlington MA Invasives*) - signing up means nothing more than, "I will remove invasive weeds **from my own backyard.**" **Tell us** what you are already doing [here](https://forms.gle/jrwWuPedauzv1dwG6):
<https://forms.gle/jrwWuPedauzv1dwG6>

⇒ **Dig out Black Swallow-wort (BSW) by its roots** - GET IT OUT NOW (**July**) before seed pods ripen in August.

⇒ **Bag BSW seed pods and Oriental**

Bittersweet (vines-w-berries & roots) - by August-September,
⇒ **Always put ALL invasives** in black garbage bags, label with DPW "Invasive Weeds" stickers and place with garbage.

⇒ **Get stickers** from Charlotte Milan: cmilan@town.arlington.ma.us

⇒ **Resources:**

Massachusetts Invasive Species [List](https://tinyurl.com/invasives-nh-poster) — Poster showing 4 life stages of invasive plants: <https://tinyurl.com/invasives-nh-poster>

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