

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

Celastrus scandens

American Bittersweet



Easily grown vine, whose primary landscape value is its beautiful orange-and-crimson berries, which ripen in October and persist through the winter. (Warning: the berries are poisonous.) Also provides good cover for wildlife. A good alternative to the highly invasive Oriental bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*). Tolerant of many sites.

Suggested companions: sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), staghorn sumac (*Rhus typhina*).

Photo Credit: Wisconsin State Herbarium, by Dennis W. Woodland

Plant Type: Vine
Size: 3'-20' H
W

Water Tolerant: No

Habitat:
Woodland Margin

Soil: Average Garden Soil
Sandy/ Gravelly
Rich Moist
Clay

Exposure: sun
filtered
shade

Flower Color:
Yellow
Green

Bloom Time:
May
June

Plant in:

Groundcover: No

Other Attributes:
Winter interest
Fall color
Wildlife attracting