

## Shrubs: Alternate Toothed Leaves in Bundles

15

Common Barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*)      Barberry family (*Berberidaceae*)



Photo Credit: Mo Ewing



For Complete description,  
see side 2

### KEY IDENTIFIERS:

Dense woody shrub (may grow to 9' H). Rosettes of wedge-shaped, bristly-toothed leaves with double or triple branched spines grow below each rosette. Dangling racemes of yellow flowers bloom in spring. Fruit is an oblong red drupe which hangs in a drooping raceme.



## Shrubs: Alternate Toothed Leaves in Bundles

15

Common Barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*)      Barberry family (*Berberidaceae*)



Photo Credit: Mo Ewing



For Complete description,  
see side 2

### KEY IDENTIFIERS:

Dense woody shrub (may grow to 9' H). Rosettes of wedge-shaped, bristly-toothed leaves with double or triple branched spines grow below each rosette. Dangling racemes of yellow flowers bloom in spring. Fruit is an oblong red drupe which hangs in a drooping raceme.



## **Description**

### **Common Barberry**

**Habit:** woody, shrub growing from 6' - 9' in height

**Leaves:** wedge shaped, toothed, growing in a rosette flush

**Stems:** tan-brown, containing two or three parted spines just beneath each new growth

**Flowers:** late spring blooming, yellow six petaled flowers appear in drooping raceme from the leaf axils

**Fruit:** red oblong berry or drupe, hanging in drooping racemes from leaf axils

**Habitat** Common barberry grows along roadsides, in old fields and in open woods. It is both sun and shade tolerant and can grow in a variety of soils.

**Note:** European or Common barberry was widely eradicated in the past due to its harboring a disease which affects wheat crops. Today, it is far less common on the landscape than Japanese barberry, although it still poses an ecological threat to natural communities.

### **Similar Species**

Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) has entire leaves, flowers in an upside down umbel.

*Illustrations reprinted with permission from Illustrated Companion to Gleason and Cronquist's Manual: Illustrations of the Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada, edited by N. H. Holmgren and Collaborators, copyright 1998, The New York Botanical Garden Press.*

## **Description**

### **Common Barberry**

**Habit:** woody, shrub growing from 6' - 9' in height

**Leaves:** wedge shaped, toothed, growing in a rosette flush

**Stems:** tan-brown, containing two or three parted spines just beneath each new growth

**Flowers:** late spring blooming, yellow six petaled flowers appear in drooping raceme from the leaf axils

**Fruit:** red oblong berry or drupe, hanging in drooping racemes from leaf axils

**Habitat** Common barberry grows along roadsides, in old fields and in open woods. It is both sun and shade tolerant and can grow in a variety of soils.

**Note:** European or Common barberry was widely eradicated in the past due to its harboring a disease which affects wheat crops. Today, it is far less common on the landscape than Japanese barberry, although it still poses an ecological threat to natural communities.

### **Similar Species**

Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) has entire leaves, flowers in an upside down umbel.

*Illustrations reprinted with permission from Illustrated Companion to Gleason and Cronquist's Manual: Illustrations of the Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada, edited by N. H. Holmgren and Collaborators, copyright 1998, The New York Botanical Garden Press.*

## Shrubs: Alternate, Untoothed Leaves

17

Autumn Olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*)

Oleaster family (*Elaeagnaceae*)



Photo Credit: Catherine Heffron



For Complete description,  
see side 2

### KEY IDENTIFIERS:

Deciduous shrub growing to 20' H. Alternate leaves are green above, silvery below, creating a shimmering effect on windy days. Branching pattern often gives specimen a "tilted" appearance. Fragrant, tubular flowers in spring followed by a red juicy berry appearing sprinkled with silver glitter.



## Shrubs: Alternate, Untoothed Leaves

17

Autumn Olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*)

Oleaster family (*Elaeagnaceae*)



Photo Credit: Catherine Heffron



For Complete description,  
see side 2

### KEY IDENTIFIERS:

Deciduous shrub growing to 20' H. Alternate leaves are green above, silvery below, creating a shimmering effect on windy days. Branching pattern often gives specimen a "tilted" appearance. Fragrant, tubular flowers in spring followed by a red juicy berry appearing sprinkled with silver glitter.



## **Description**

### **Autumn Olive**

**Habit:** deciduous shrub or small tree that can grow to 20' in height

**Leaves:** alternate, lance-shaped, entire; dark green above and silver-white scaled below, creating a two toned effect and causing the shrub to "shimmer" on windy days

**Bark:** grayish-tan; new growth often dotted with light yellow resin dots, remnant spur branches look like thorns

**Flowers:** May-June, small, tubular, extremely fragrant, light yellow flowers are borne along twigs after the leaves appear, early in the growing season

**Fruit:** small, round, juicy fruits are reddish to pink, dotted with silvery scales and produced in great quantity

**Habitat** Autumn olive has nitrogen-fixing root nodules, which allow it to thrive in poor soils. Typical habitats are disturbed areas, roadsides, pastures, and fields in a wide range of soils. It also may invade grasslands, wildlife clearings, timber clearings, and sparse woodlands but does not thrive in densely forested situations.

### **Similar Species**

Autumn olive is easily confused with Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), which does not appear to be invasive in much of the northeast. Russian olive has elliptic to lance-shaped leaves that are silvery on both sides; its branches are usually thorny, and its fruit is yellow, dry and mealy.

It can also be confused with many of the native willows whose leaves are dark green on the upper leaf surface and whitish beneath. However, most of the shrub or treelike willows (*Salix spp.*) have toothed leaves or at least some fringing along the leaf margins. Additionally the reproductive structure of willows is a catkin, quite unlike the tubular flower and red juicy fruit of Autumn olive.

*Illustrations reprinted with permission from Illustrated Companion to Gleason and Cronquist's Manual: Illustrations of the Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada, edited by N. H. Holmgren and Collaborators, copyright 1998, The New York Botanical Garden Press.*

## **Description**

### **Autumn Olive**

**Habit:** deciduous shrub or small tree that can grow to 20' in height

**Leaves:** alternate, lance-shaped, entire; dark green above and silver-white scaled below, creating a two toned effect and causing the shrub to "shimmer" on windy days

**Bark:** grayish-tan; new growth often dotted with light yellow resin dots, remnant spur branches look like thorns

**Flowers:** May-June, small, tubular, extremely fragrant, light yellow flowers are borne along twigs after the leaves appear, early in the growing season

**Fruit:** small, round, juicy fruits are reddish to pink, dotted with silvery scales and produced in great quantity

**Habitat** Autumn olive has nitrogen-fixing root nodules, which allow it to thrive in poor soils. Typical habitats are disturbed areas, roadsides, pastures, and fields in a wide range of soils. It also may invade grasslands, wildlife clearings, timber clearings, and sparse woodlands but does not thrive in densely forested situations.

### **Similar Species**

Autumn olive is easily confused with Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), which does not appear to be invasive in much of the northeast. Russian olive has elliptic to lance-shaped leaves that are silvery on both sides; its branches are usually thorny, and its fruit is yellow, dry and mealy.

It can also be confused with many of the native willows whose leaves are dark green on the upper leaf surface and whitish beneath. However, most of the shrub or treelike willows (*Salix spp.*) have toothed leaves or at least some fringing along the leaf margins. Additionally the reproductive structure of willows is a catkin, quite unlike the tubular flower and red juicy fruit of Autumn olive.

*Illustrations reprinted with permission from Illustrated Companion to Gleason and Cronquist's Manual: Illustrations of the Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada, edited by N. H. Holmgren and Collaborators, copyright 1998, The New York Botanical Garden Press.*

## Shrubs: Compound Leaves

19

Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*)

Rose family (*Rosaceae*)

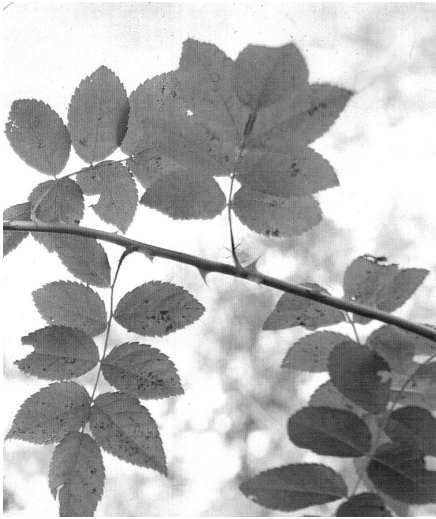
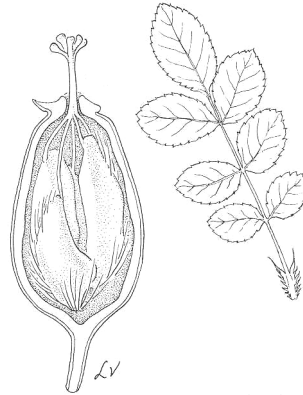


Photo Credit: Christopher Mattrick



For Complete description,  
see side 2

### KEY IDENTIFIERS:

Shrubby, arching plant with masses of showy white 5 petalled flowers. Fringed stipule at base of leaf stem (looks like feathers)—not present on other similar roses. Stongly recurved, stiff thorns. Long arching canes, giving the plants a fountain shape.



## Shrubs: Compound Leaves

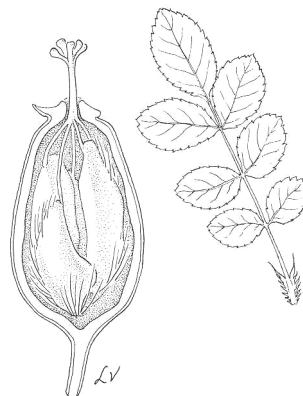
19

Multiflora Rose (*Rosa multiflora*)

Rose family (*Rosaceae*)



Photo Credit: Christopher Mattrick



For Complete description,  
see side 2

### KEY IDENTIFIERS:

Shrubby, arching plant with masses of showy white 5 petalled flowers. Fringed stipule at base of leaf stem (looks like feathers)—not present on other similar roses. Stongly recurved, stiff thorns. Long arching canes, giving the plants a fountain shape.



## **Description**

### **Multiflora Rose**

**Habit:** upright fountain shaped thorny shrub

**Leaves:** pinnately compound, seven to nine toothed leaflets, each leaflet about one inch long, stipule (widening at the base of the leaf stem) fringed with coarse hairs

**Stems:** green, long, arching, with stiff re-curved thorns, tips root to form new plants, older stems turn woody

**Flowers:** fragrant, white or occasionally pink, .75 to 1.5 inches wide, five petalled, arranged in dense clusters

**Fruit:** small, round, hard, red berry called a hip—smallest hip of any rose found in New England

**Habitat** Generalist. Not specific about habitat types will grow in a variety of soil, moisture, and light conditions. Old pastures, reverting fields, roadsides, hedgerows, woodland borders, open, woods.

### **Similar Species**

Native rose species (*Rosa sp.*) do not have the feathery, deeply fringed stipule at the bottom of each compound leaf, nor do they produce masses of white fragrant flowers.

*Illustrations reprinted with permission from Illustrated Companion to Gleason and Cronquist's Manual: Illustrations of the Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada, edited by N. H. Holmgren and Collaborators, copyright 1998, The New York Botanical Garden Press.*

## **Description**

### **Multiflora Rose**

**Habit:** upright fountain shaped thorny shrub

**Leaves:** pinnately compound, seven to nine toothed leaflets, each leaflet about one inch long, stipule (widening at the base of the leaf stem) fringed with coarse hairs

**Stems:** green, long, arching, with stiff re-curved thorns, tips root to form new plants, older stems turn woody

**Flowers:** fragrant, white or occasionally pink, .75 to 1.5 inches wide, five petalled, arranged in dense clusters

**Fruit:** small, round, hard, red berry called a hip—smallest hip of any rose found in New England

**Habitat** Generalist. Not specific about habitat types will grow in a variety of soil, moisture, and light conditions. Old pastures, reverting fields, roadsides, hedgerows, woodland borders, open, woods.

### **Similar Species**

Native rose species (*Rosa sp.*) do not have the feathery, deeply fringed stipule at the bottom of each compound leaf, nor do they produce masses of white fragrant flowers.

*Illustrations reprinted with permission from Illustrated Companion to Gleason and Cronquist's Manual: Illustrations of the Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada, edited by N. H. Holmgren and Collaborators, copyright 1998, The New York Botanical Garden Press.*

## Vines: Opposite, Untoothed Leaves

21

Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) Honeysuckle family (*Caprifoliaceae*)



Photo Credit: John Lynch



For Complete description,  
see side 2

### KEY IDENTIFIERS:

Woody trailing or climbing vine, egg shaped entire opposite leaves. Fragrant flowers are white fading to yellow and bloom from late spring through autumn. Black juicy berries.



## Vines: Opposite, Untoothed Leaves

21

Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*) Honeysuckle family (*Caprifoliaceae*)



Photo Credit: John Lynch



For Complete description,  
see side 2

### KEY IDENTIFIERS:

Woody trailing or climbing vine, egg shaped entire opposite leaves. Fragrant flowers are white fading to yellow and bloom from late spring through autumn. Black juicy berries.



## **Description**

### **Japanese Honeysuckle**

**Habit:** woody trailing or climbing vine

**Leaves:** opposite. egg-shaped or oblong, 1" - 3" long, usually entire, basal leaves often with several remnant teeth or lobes

**Stems:** woody, brown, climbing, twining, young stems downy

**Flowers:** white aging to yellow, very fragrant, tubular, two-lipped, blooming from late spring sporadically to autumn

**Fruit:** black, juicy berries

**Habitat** Generalist. Roadsides, thickets, woods, and fields, often near abandoned cultural sites. Widely planted in past and present.

### **Similar Species**

**Swallowworts** (*Cynanchum sp.*) are herbaceous vines.

**Native vine honeysuckles** (*Lonicera hirsuta*, *L. dioica*, *L. sempervirens*) have orange or yellow flowers occurring in 3-flowered inflorescences. The only other vines with opposite non-toothed leaves are the swallowworts. Other native vines have alternate, compound, or toothed leaved.

*Illustrations reprinted with permission from Illustrated Companion to Gleason and Cronquist's Manual: Illustrations of the Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada, edited by N. H. Holmgren and Collaborators, copyright 1998, The New York Botanical Garden Press.*

## **Description**

### **Japanese Honeysuckle**

**Habit:** woody trailing or climbing vine

**Leaves:** opposite. egg-shaped or oblong, 1" - 3" long, usually entire, basal leaves often with several remnant teeth or lobes

**Stems:** woody, brown, climbing, twining, young stems downy

**Flowers:** white aging to yellow, very fragrant, tubular, two-lipped, blooming from late spring sporadically to autumn

**Fruit:** black, juicy berries

**Habitat** Generalist. Roadsides, thickets, woods, and fields, often near abandoned cultural sites. Widely planted in past and present.

### **Similar Species**

**Swallowworts** (*Cynanchum sp.*) are herbaceous vines.

**Native vine honeysuckles** (*Lonicera hirsuta*, *L. dioica*, *L. sempervirens*) have orange or yellow flowers occurring in 3-flowered inflorescences. The only other vines with opposite non-toothed leaves are the swallowworts. Other native vines have alternate, compound, or toothed leaved.

*Illustrations reprinted with permission from Illustrated Companion to Gleason and Cronquist's Manual: Illustrations of the Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada, edited by N. H. Holmgren and Collaborators, copyright 1998, The New York Botanical Garden Press.*

## Vines: Opposite, Untoothed Leaves

23

Pale Swallowwort (*Cynanchum rossicum*)

Dogbane family (*Apocynaceae*)

Black Swallowwort (*Cynanchum louiseae*)



Photo Credit: Mo Ewing

For Complete description,  
see side 2



### KEY IDENTIFIERS:

Herbaceous twining vine from 2' - 10' long, opposite leaves 2" - 4" long are oblong to ovate with an acuminate (pointed) tip. Very colonial species, rarely found growing singly. Fruit a thin, milkweed-like pod.



## Vines: Opposite, Untoothed Leaves

23

Pale Swallowwort (*Cynanchum rossicum*)

Dogbane family (*Apocynaceae*)

Black Swallowwort (*Cynanchum louiseae*)



Photo Credit: Mo Ewing

For Complete description,  
see side 2



### KEY IDENTIFIERS:

Herbaceous twining vine from 2' - 10' long, opposite leaves 2" - 4" long are oblong to ovate with an acuminate (pointed) tip. Very colonial species, rarely found growing singly. Fruit a thin, milkweed-like pod.



## **Description**

### **Swallowworts**

**Habit:** herbaceous twining vines—a colonial species, rarely found singly

**Leaves: (both species)** opposite, rarely whorled, oblong to ovate, entire and 2–4 inches long with short petioles (stems), upper pairs joined together at the base

**Stems:** herbaceous, green, downy, 2-10' long

**Flowers:** fragrant flowers approximately 1/4" wide, grow in small clusters in the leaf axils from late May to September

**Fruit:** extremely slender pods are similar to those of the milkweed species, about 1.6" - 2.8" long

**Black Swallowwort** (*Cynanchum louiseae*) dark-purple flowers; triangular-shaped petals; short white hairs (use a hand lens) on inner surface of petal.

**Pale or Red Swallowwort** (*Cynanchum rossicum*) pale purple to yellowish flowers; petals almost twice as long as wide; no hairs on the inner surface of each petal.

**Habitat** Swallowworts grow in open areas along fences, roadways, utility corridors, wildlife openings, and timber cuts. As with most species they are generalists, but are absent from areas of deep shade.

### **Similar Species**

Swallowworts can be confused with several of the bindweeds (*Polygonum sp.* and *Calystegia sp.*). However bindweeds all have white or greenish flowers and their leaves are either heart-shaped, or arrow-shaped at the base. Their stems are also jointed.

*Illustrations reprinted with permission from Illustrated Companion to Gleason and Cronquist's Manual: Illustrations of the Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada, edited by N. H. Holmgren and Collaborators, copyright 1998, The New York Botanical Garden Press.*

## **Description**

### **Swallowworts**

**Habit:** herbaceous twining vines—a colonial species, rarely found singly

**Leaves: (both species)** opposite, rarely whorled, oblong to ovate, entire and 2–4 inches long with short petioles (stems), upper pairs joined together at the base

**Stems:** herbaceous, green, downy, 2-10' long

**Flowers:** fragrant flowers approximately 1/4" wide, grow in small clusters in the leaf axils from late May to September

**Fruit:** extremely slender pods are similar to those of the milkweed species, about 1.6" - 2.8" long

**Black Swallowwort** (*Cynanchum louiseae*) dark-purple flowers; triangular-shaped petals; short white hairs (use a hand lens) on inner surface of petal.

**Pale or Red Swallowwort** (*Cynanchum rossicum*) pale purple to yellowish flowers; petals almost twice as long as wide; no hairs on the inner surface of each petal.

**Habitat** Swallowworts grow in open areas along fences, roadways, utility corridors, wildlife openings, and timber cuts. As with most species they are generalists, but are absent from areas of deep shade.

### **Similar Species**

Swallowworts can be confused with several of the bindweeds (*Polygonum sp.* and *Calystegia sp.*). However bindweeds all have white or greenish flowers and their leaves are either heart-shaped, or arrow-shaped at the base. Their stems are also jointed.

*Illustrations reprinted with permission from Illustrated Companion to Gleason and Cronquist's Manual: Illustrations of the Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada, edited by N. H. Holmgren and Collaborators, copyright 1998, The New York Botanical Garden Press.*

## Vines: Alternate, Toothed Leaves

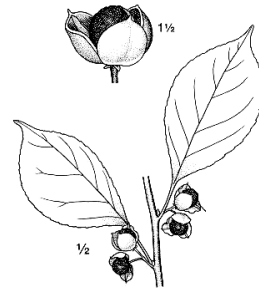
25

Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) Staff-tree family (*Celastraceae*)



Photo Credit: Mo Ewing

For Complete description,  
see side 2



### KEY IDENTIFIERS:

Aggressively climbing/scrambling woody vine. Alternate, toothed leaves, the lower leaves typically orbiculate (round). Flowers and fruits in the leaf axils, not at the branch tips. Bright yellow fruit coat, splitting open to reveal orange to red fruit. Plant has bright orange roots.



## Vines: Alternate, Toothed Leaves

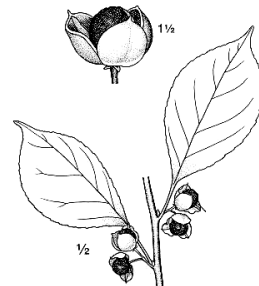
25

Oriental Bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*) Staff-tree family (*Celastraceae*)



Photo Credit: Mo Ewing

For Complete description,  
see side 2



### KEY IDENTIFIERS:

Aggressively climbing/scrambling woody vine. Alternate, toothed leaves, the lower leaves typically orbiculate (round). Flowers and fruits in the leaf axils, not at the branch tips. Bright yellow fruit coat, splitting open to reveal orange to red fruit. Plant has bright orange roots.



## **Description**

### **Oriental Bittersweet**

**Habit:** climbing/scrambling woody vine that can grow to 65' in length, typically a strangling vine

**Leaves:** alternate, bluntly toothed, nearly round leaves that become narrower and more pointed nearer branch tips

**Stems:** twining stems girdle trees and shrubs or scramble along the ground

**Flowers:** small greenish flowers grow in clusters in the leaf axils and bloom from late spring to early summer

**Fruit:** bright yellow, splitting open to reveal showy, orange/red fruit

**Roots:** bright orange

**Habitat** Oriental bittersweet is extremely successful in almost any habitat type, such as disturbed edges, abandoned fields, timber clearings, and along rivers and streams. It is abundant in utility corridors, fencerows, railroads, and roadways.

### **Similar Species**

Oriental bittersweet is readily identifiable and should not be confused with any other species. In some regions it can be confused with the native American bittersweet (*C. scandens*). American bittersweet, however, flowers and fruits only at the branch tips rather than the leaf axils, and its leaves are finely toothed, narrow, and pointed, rather than roundish. Where the two species do occur together, there is suspicion that they are hybridizing. Although leaf shape can be helpful it should not be relied upon as the only identification characteristic.

*Illustrations reprinted with permission from Illustrated Companion to Gleason and Cronquist's Manual: Illustrations of the Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada, edited by N. H. Holmgren and Collaborators, copyright 1998, The New York Botanical Garden Press.*

## **Description**

### **Oriental Bittersweet**

**Habit:** climbing/scrambling woody vine that can grow to 65' in length, typically a strangling vine

**Leaves:** alternate, bluntly toothed, nearly round leaves that become narrower and more pointed nearer branch tips

**Stems:** twining stems girdle trees and shrubs or scramble along the ground

**Flowers:** small greenish flowers grow in clusters in the leaf axils and bloom from late spring to early summer

**Fruit:** bright yellow, splitting open to reveal showy, orange/red fruit

**Roots:** bright orange

**Habitat** Oriental bittersweet is extremely successful in almost any habitat type, such as disturbed edges, abandoned fields, timber clearings, and along rivers and streams. It is abundant in utility corridors, fencerows, railroads, and roadways.

### **Similar Species**

Oriental bittersweet is readily identifiable and should not be confused with any other species. In some regions it can be confused with the native American bittersweet (*C. scandens*). American bittersweet, however, flowers and fruits only at the branch tips rather than the leaf axils, and its leaves are finely toothed, narrow, and pointed, rather than roundish. Where the two species do occur together, there is suspicion that they are hybridizing. Although leaf shape can be helpful it should not be relied upon as the only identification characteristic.

*Illustrations reprinted with permission from Illustrated Companion to Gleason and Cronquist's Manual: Illustrations of the Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada, edited by N. H. Holmgren and Collaborators, copyright 1998, The New York Botanical Garden Press.*

## Herbs: Basal, Untoothed Leaves

27

Yellow Flag Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*)

Iris family (*Iridaceae*)



Photo Credit: Dorothy S. Long



For Complete description,  
see side 2

### KEY IDENTIFIERS:

2'-4' H perennial—only yellow-flowered iris growing wild in New England. Alternate, grass/sword-like leaves, sheath the stem. Blooms late spring through early summer. Six angled (ridged fruit pod). Found in streams and along river-banks, floodplain forests, pondshores and marshes.



## Herbs: Basal, Untoothed Leaves

27

Yellow Flag Iris (*Iris pseudacorus*)

Iris family (*Iridaceae*)



Photo Credit: Dorothy S. Long



For Complete description,  
see side 2

### KEY IDENTIFIERS:

2'-4' H perennial—only yellow-flowered iris growing wild in New England. Alternate, grass/sword-like leaves, sheath the stem. Blooms late spring through early summer. Six angled (ridged fruit pod). Found in streams and along river-banks, floodplain forests, pondshores and marshes.



## **Description**

### **Yellow Flag Iris**

**Habit:** erect perennial 1' - 3' in height

**Leaves:** leaves are .8" - 1.2" wide and arise from swollen nodes along the stem

**Stems:** alternate, grass-like, sword-like, sheathing the stem

**Flowers:** late spring through early summer, showy sepals, non-showy petals

- **sepals:** four, yellow, re-curved, 4 inches wide +/-, broad and abruptly contracted at base
- **petals:** inside sepals, somewhat erect, spoon-shaped

**Fruit:** ovoid capsule, green, six-ridged, contains several large seeds

**Note:** only yellow-flowered iris growing wild in New England

**Habitat** Stream and river-banks, floodplain forests, pondshores and marshes. Prefers moist soil in full-sun, but will tolerate filtered sun.

### **Similar Species**

Blue-flag irises (*Iris versicolor*, *I. prismatica*, *I. virginica*) have 3 angled or ridged fruit, blue flowers, typically 12-24 inches tall.

*Illustrations reprinted with permission from Illustrated Companion to Gleason and Cronquist's Manual: Illustrations of the Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada, edited by N. H. Holmgren and Collaborators, copyright 1998, The New York Botanical Garden Press.*

## **Description**

### **Yellow Flag Iris**

**Habit:** erect perennial 1' - 3' in height

**Leaves:** leaves are .8" - 1.2" wide and arise from swollen nodes along the stem

**Stems:** alternate, grass-like, sword-like, sheathing the stem

**Flowers:** late spring through early summer, showy sepals, non-showy petals

- **sepals:** four, yellow, re-curved, 4 inches wide +/-, broad and abruptly contracted at base
- **petals:** inside sepals, somewhat erect, spoon-shaped

**Fruit:** ovoid capsule, green, six-ridged, contains several large seeds

**Note:** only yellow-flowered iris growing wild in New England

**Habitat** Stream and river-banks, floodplain forests, pondshores and marshes. Prefers moist soil in full-sun, but will tolerate filtered sun.

### **Similar Species**

Blue-flag irises (*Iris versicolor*, *I. prismatica*, *I. virginica*) have 3 angled or ridged fruit, blue flowers, typically 12-24 inches tall.

*Illustrations reprinted with permission from Illustrated Companion to Gleason and Cronquist's Manual: Illustrations of the Vascular Plants of Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada, edited by N. H. Holmgren and Collaborators, copyright 1998, The New York Botanical Garden Press.*