

Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)

The Ridgefield Conservation Commission asks residents to be on the lookout for Japanese Barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*) on their properties, a particularly destructive non-native invasive plant that crowds out native plants. It can escape private plantings and is also found growing wild in Ridgefield open spaces. Japanese Barberry poses a risk to humans by providing shelter for white-footed mice, carriers of the blacklegged tick that transmits Lyme and other tick-borne diseases to humans. The high humidity and shade provided by Japanese Barberry create a perfect habitat for tick survival. A recent Connecticut-based study shows a dramatic reduction in the number of blacklegged ticks found when Japanese Barberry is removed.

Japanese barberry resources:

Japanese barberry/Black legged tick study

Newtown Conservation Commission

Issues

Removal tips

Connecticut Department of Energy & Environment Protection (DEEP)

Ecological impact, control methods

National Park Service Plant Conservation Alliance

Description, ecological threat, control options, alternate plants

Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG)

Control options

June, 2011: Connecticut scientists, Japanese barberry and Black legged ticks