

Barberry Removal Techniques Recommended by PFLA Environmental Committee

(Adapted from fact sheet 'How to Identify and Control Japanese barberry', Dave MicGill, WVU Extension Specialist, WVU Extension Service Agriculture and Natural Resources)

Pulling or Digging Young Seedlings:

Pulling or digging Japanese barberry can be effective if the plants are small and do not have well-established root systems (typically, plants younger than one year). The characteristic leaves help identify these small seedlings. Pull or dig them up, taking care to remove as much of the root system as possible. Continue to monitor for new seedlings from time to time.

Cut-stump Method:

Cutting Japanese barberry with a brush saw, chainsaw, or clippers will result in resprouting stems.

To prevent sprouting of the cut stems you can do one of the following:

- Dig out the shallow roots completely (no herbicide needed) or
 - Spray the stumps/cut stem with a concentrated glyphosate-based herbicide (with at least 40% of the active ingredient glyphosate).
 - Mix the herbicide with water in a 50:50 ratio (a 50% solution). Be sure to apply the herbicide immediately after cutting the stem.
- Cut stump treatment works best when active growth is occurring.

IMPORTANT:

Use thick gloves. Wear long sleeves and pants. Tick repellent is recommended.

Follow all herbicide instructions - recommended rates, application methods, and use of personal protective equipment.