

**PRISM**  
(New York Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management)  
**NON-NATIVE PLANT INVASIVENESS RANKING FORM**

PRISM: Adirondack Park Invasive Program

Scientific name: Berberis thunbergii (includes all hybrids with other Berberis species)  
 USDA Plants Code: BETH

Common names: Japanese barberry

Native Distribution: Asia

Date Assessed: December 8, 2015

PRISM Assessors: Zachary Simek

PRISM Reviewers: Brendan Quirion, Chris Zimmerman

Date Approved: 4/7/2016 Form version date: 13 April 2009

New York Relative Maximum score: 91.00 Date NY assessment approved: 9-24-2008

New York State Invasive Rank: Very High

**SUMMARY OF PRISM RANKING RESULTS:**

**Distribution:** Widespread

**Estimated number of infested sites:** >10

**PRISM Invasiveness Rank<sup>s</sup>:** Very High



**A. DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE (KNOWN/POTENTIAL):**

1. What is the species distribution and abundance in the PRISM?

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| A. Not present   | Not Present |
| B. Occurs in three or fewer natural areas (locations that are at least ¼ mile apart) with no infested area* >1 acre or containing >100 individuals | Restricted  |
| C. Present in 4–10 natural areas, or with one occupied location >1 acre or containing >100 individuals   | Common      |
| D. Present in >10 minimally managed areas  | Widespread  |
| U. Unknown   | Unknown     |

Answer: Widespread

**Describe distribution:**  
 Although Japanese barberry is technically widespread across the Adirondack PRISM, within the interior Adirondacks, infestations of this species are very small, isolated. Most infestations have not been mapped due to the time commitments and labor costs associated with taking on a mapping effort at this scale. However, based on field observations by staff and partners, it is apparent that most of these infestations fall near hamlet areas where this species was originally planted as an ornamental. Areas of disturbance such as forested flood plains, roadway and rail corridors, as well as areas with relatively high deer abundance are all susceptible to invasion by this species. Within the Adirondack Park, the areas of Keene Valley, Old Forge, and the Lake George/Lake Champlain region have high densities of Japanese barberry. The Old Forge and Keene Valley regions have a proportionally higher deer density than other areas of the Park, which facilitates expansion of existing barberry infestations. With a shade tolerance of 4-89% sunlight, it is not uncommon to find Japanese barberry back in the interior forest. However, it is still usually associated with some level of disturbance such as a hiking trail or parking

**PRISM**  
(New York Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management)  
**NON-NATIVE PLANT INVASIVENESS RANKING FORM**

area.

Sources of information:

Field observations of APIPP staff and NYSDEC invasive species campground manager ; Zouhar, 2008.

§Not Assessable: not persistent in the PRISM, or not found outside of cultivation.

\*Definition of “infested area” is the “...actual or percentage of land occupied by [canopy cover of] weed plants” NAWMA (North American Weed Management Association) 2002. North American Invasive Plant Mapping Standards (see <http://www.nawma.org/>).

2. What is the likelihood the species will occur (if not yet present) or expand its distribution and abundance (if already present) in the PRISM?

Answer:

Documentation (e.g.: history of establishment in PRISM, suitability of habitats and climate, distribution models, literature, expert opinions):

This species is already widespread within the Adirondack PRISM and there is ample suitable habitat for it to spread into especially along road/rail corridors, trails, flood plains, and areas with high deer densities. It is nearly impossible to effectively limit the spread of this species once established since its primary spread vector is seed dispersal by birds.

Sources of information:

Field observations of APIPP staff and NYSDEC invasive species campground manager; Zouhar, 2008

**B. INVASIVENESS RANK IN THE PRISM:**

Is the species distribution Widespread or Common?

Yes: Go to column A in table below.

No: What is the likelihood of species occurrence or expansion? Answer:

- Very Likely: Use column A below
- Moderately likely: Use column B below
- Unlikely: Use column C below
- Zero likelihood Invasive potential Insignificant
- Unknown Invasive potential Unknown
- Not assessed Invasive potential not assessed

Assign a PRISM invasiveness rank to the species based on its New York Relative Maximum Score, using the designated column in the table below.

New York Relative Maximum Score	New York Invasiveness Rank	A	B	C
> 80.00	Very High	VH	H	M
70.00–80.00	High	H	M	L
50.00–69.99	Moderate	M	L	Ins
40.00–49.99	Low	L	Ins	Ins
<40.00	Insignificant	Ins	Ins	Ins

Column used: **A (Insert PRISM Invasiveness Rank on page 1)**

**PRISM**  
(New York Partnerships for Regional Invasive Species Management)  
**NON-NATIVE PLANT INVASIVENESS RANKING FORM**

**References for species assessment:**

Field observations by AIPPP staff and NYSDEC invasive species campground manager

Zouhar, Kris. 2008. *Berberis thunbergii*. In: Fire Effects Information System, [Online]. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Fire Sciences Laboratory (Producer). Available: <http://www.fs.fed.us/database/feis/> [2015, December 8].

**Citation:** This ranking form for regions within NYS may be cited as: Jordan, M.J., G. Moore and T.W. Weldy. 2008. Invasiveness ranking system for non-native plants of New York. Unpublished. The Nature Conservancy, Cold Spring Harbor, NY; Brooklyn Botanic Garden, Brooklyn, NY; The Nature Conservancy, Albany, NY. Note that the order of authorship is alphabetical; all three authors contributed substantially to the development of this protocol.

**Acknowledgments:** Valuable contributions by members of the Long Island Invasive Species Management Area's Scientific Review Committee were incorporated in revisions of this form.