

a voice
for the natural
landscaping
movement



Reprinted from the
Wild Ones Journal,
January/February 2011
issue.

For more information, or to join
Wild Ones Natural Landscapers,
here's how to reach us:

Phone

(920) 730-3986
(877) 394-3954 (Toll-Free)

Mail

PO Box 1274
Appleton, WI 54912-1274

E-Mail

ExecDirector@wildones.org

WebSite

www.wildones.org

Celebrating natives
plant and natural
landscapes
since 1979.

Grapevine

By Maryann Whitman



Banned in Connecticut

The Connecticut Nursery and Landscape Association, acting on six years of research conducted by the University of Connecticut College of Agriculture, has agreed to phase out the propagation and sale of 25 varieties of barberry (*Berberis* sp.), over the next three years. Further, the association will launch a campaign to educate the public about the risks to the environment created by these invasive exotic plants. Connecticut is the first state to do this, setting a real template for the rest of the nation.

The state's \$1.1 billion nursery industry claims this voluntary phase-out and propagation ban will cost the industry about "\$7 million."

Knowledgeable conservationists and DNR agents from other states are heartened by this accomplishment. This invasive plant, readily spread by birds and small animals, is present in the wild areas of all the eastern seaboard states, except Florida, and west as far as Wyoming. They point out that the "\$7 million" loss is a gross exaggeration. If property owners are persuaded not to buy barberry, they will likely buy and plant something else. If property owners choose to be ecologically responsible, they will remove the existing barberry, and likely buy new plants to replace it. Sound like a money wash to me.

Let's do what we can in our individual areas to initiate rethinking on the propagation and sales of barberry, buckthorn, and honeysuckle. Wouldn't that be a great start?