

## Station 2: Natives and Invasives

The common barberry is a woody shrub that was brought to this country by European settlers. As such, the animals here are not accustomed to eating it and it quickly grows out of control, taking away important habitats from native species. Both common and Japanese barberry are non-native *invasive* species which are banned from sale and propagation in many states, and although attempts have been made to eliminate their populations, they are still commonly found in the Northeastern states. There is also a recorded correlation between barberry growths and tick populations, as scientists believe they create a “microhabitat” in which ticks thrive.

Despite these environmental intruders, this station also contains several *native* plants worth noting. Two of these are small vine-like ground covers with distinct flowers and berries.

- Partridgeberry has small, white, trumpeting, four-petaled flowers, and distinctive red berries.
- Wintergreen also has bright red berries, but has distinctively bell-shaped flowers.

Additionally, this station harbors the sometimes elusive Solomon’s seal, another plant with bell-like flowers, but on a taller, more leafy stalk. The King Solomon’s seal and the hairy Solomon’s seal are native local varieties, while the broad-leafed Solomon’s seal, though non-native, is also commonly found.

