

Barberry

(*Berberis vulgaris*)



Habitat: Terrestrial
Family name: Berberidaceae
Common name: Common barberry, European barberry



Barberry - *Berberis vulgaris*

Description: *Berberis vulgaris* is a deciduous shrub that can reach 4 m in height.

Common barberry root and rhizome growth is often extensive.

Surrounding the common barberry root crown is a "thick mass of fibrous roots".

Large lateral roots occur several inches to more than a foot under ground.



Barberry - *Berberis vulgaris* flower

Lateral roots may be 2.5-5 cm in diameter near the root crown and extend 3-4.6 m from the root crown.



Barberry - *Berberis vulgaris* fruit

Common barberry root growth varies with site conditions. Shrubs in sandy, loose-textured soils produced long lateral roots.



Barberry - *Berberis vulgaris* stem

Shrubs growing on gentle slopes with deep loam soils do not produce long tap roots.

Berberis vulgaris is shade tolerant which allows it to easily invade woodlands. It is also an alternate host for wheat rust (*Puccinia graminis*) which makes the control and removal of this invasive shrub

of primary importance. As an alternate host, common barberry can support the development of new genotypes able to attack rust-resistant crops. Wheat rust (*Puccinia graminis*) can severely reduce the yield of wheat, oat, and barley crops.

Reproduction: Common barberry flowers are perfect and primarily insect pollinated.

Nectaries occur at the base of flower petals, and bees, wasps, ants, flies, and beetles are common pollinators. Although cross pollination by insects is most common, 3 of 30 inflorescences produced fruits when protected from insects.

Arching branches which come into contact with the soil can produce new plants.



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