

## Leatherleaf Mahonia

### Education

Leather Leaf Mahonia is a non-native invasive plant. It spreads rapidly and is found here in Spartanburg, SC in quantities.

Accolades to Paul Savko for spotting this Invasive Plant Alert.

Invasive Plant Alert: From National Park Service, National Capital Region Exotic Plant Management Team, Washington, DC.

<http://www.nps.gov/cue/epmt/products/Mahonia%20bealei%202012%20NCREPMT.pdf>

The USDA Forest Service, Southern Division offers the free Dr. Jim Miller's Field Guide for identification of invasive plants. It is the best resource we know for detailed photographs of each invasive at various times during the season. Click on the link below to see his information on Leatherleaf Mahonia.

[http://srsfia2.fs.fed.us/data\\_acquisition/Invasives%20part%202%20booklet%20.pdf](http://srsfia2.fs.fed.us/data_acquisition/Invasives%20part%202%20booklet%20.pdf)

Removal: Cutting the stem at base doesn't kill the plant. However, it prevents development of seeds in the current year.

To kill the plant without using a herbicide, the tap root needs to be dug out of the ground.

### Engage & Enhance

<sup>1</sup>  
During a neighborhood "Trees Party" in Hampton Heights, several Leatherleaf Mahonia plants were found. Here Celia Cooksey shows her neighbors what it looks like.



It was found in a patch of English ivy.



Close-Up of the Leatherleaf Mahonia.



Cecile used Paul Savko's copy of the invasive plant alert to help her neighbors to recognize the seriousness of this bad guy's invasion.



**Neighborhood decisions:**

The following neighborhoods have made the decision to remove Leatherleaf Mahonia every time they can:

- Converse Heights**
- Duncan Park**
- Hampton Heights**

**Our recommendation is that every neighborhood learn about Leatherleaf Mahonia, check out the nearby woodlands and yards, spread the word, maybe have a “Leatherleaf Mahonia Party”, and declare their objective to completely remove this non-native invasive plant from their neighborhood.**

**While we do not have a precise count, we estimate that in 2013, these neighborhoods had the following successes:**

- |                          |   |
|--------------------------|---|
| <b>Converse Heights:</b> | <b>Cut about 20 Killed about 10.</b>  |
| <b>Duncan Park:</b>      | <b>Cut about 30. Killed about 15</b>  |
| <b>Hampton Heights</b>   | <b>Cut about 10. Killed several, the first of which was on October 19, 2013</b> |