



## Question of the Week

**Q: There's a shrub growing in a nearby field that has multiple stalks coming from the base and red berries that birds seem to love. What is it and where can I get one for my yard?**

**A:** The plant in your photo, autumn olive, is indeed beautiful, but it's also on New Hampshire's invasive species list and therefore not available for sale. Autumn olive has escaped from cultivation and is progressively invading natural areas. It's a particular threat to open and semiopen areas. This plant tolerates poor soil conditions and may alter the processes of natural succession. Its nitrogen-fixing capabilities can interfere with the nitrogen cycle of native communities that depend on infertile soils. Autumn olive produces large amounts of fruit, which are readily consumed and dispersed by birds. The plant re-sprouts vigorously after fire or cutting. Over time, colonies of these shrubs can grow thick enough to crowd out native plants. Highway plantings of these high-fruited species lure birds close to fast traffic, contributing to high mortality rates for some avian species. For more information on autumn olive and other invasive plants, visit <http://extension.unh.edu/forestry/Docs/invasive.pdf>

Got questions? UNH Cooperative Extension's Family, Home & Garden Education Center Info Line offers practical help finding answers for your lawn and garden questions. Call toll free at 1-877-398-4769, M-F, 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., or e-mail us at [answers@unh.edu](mailto:answers@unh.edu)