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# FROST VALLEY YMCA

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## **GRANT FROM "CRISP" SUPPORTS INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL EFFORTS**

### **FROST VALLEY YMCA**

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CLARYVILLE, NY - In an effort to manage one of the Catskills' most prolific invasive species, Japanese barberry, Frost Valley YMCA is teaming up with the Catskill Regional Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP) through a \$5,000 grant. With seeds that boast a 90% germination rate, the thorny plant and its bright yellow roots have become a familiar sight throughout the Catskill forests. Originally imported from Japan as an ornamental shrub, Japanese barberry has become much more than a decorative plant that adorns mulched beds and well-manicured gardens. The invasive species not only changes the pH of soil and affects nitrogen levels, Japanese barberry also crowds out native species. Partly because the shrub is not eaten by deer, the spread of the shrub is virtually unhindered without human removal efforts. All in all, Japanese barberry has a profound impact on the ecosystem.

With the help of CRISP's grant, Frost Valley has begun conducting a three-part research and removal project. The removal efforts include a wide range of carefully planned techniques, which are being applied to three different plots of land on Frost Valley property and will be closely monitored for regeneration.

### **For more information about this project and its progress:**

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