

INVASIVE PLANT

COMMON BUCKTHORN

Rhamnus cathartica



HOW YOU CAN STOP THE SPREAD OF BUCKTHORN

1

Remove it before it fruits

Pull small buckthorn by hand or weed wrench. For large stems, try the critical period cutting method. Or cut at the base and prevent regrowth by treating or using baggies to cover stumps. In large areas, consider prescribed fire or goats.

2

Dispose of it mindfully

Industrial composters get hot enough to sterilize seedy berries; see if your city's facility accepts them. If you pull before it fruits, let buckthorn decay in place. Make sure to brush off boots after walking through areas with buckthorn.

3

Follow up and replant

Pull seedlings and young growth each year. Diverse native plants, like chokecherry or American elderberry, can compete with buckthorn seedlings, so replanting for wildlife habitat has yet another benefit.

HOW TO IDENTIFY BUCKTHORN

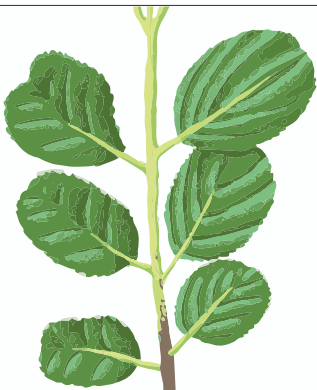
Look for it in woodlands + savannas + fields + roadsides (almost anywhere)



Buckthorn is named for the twig tip's two buds that often come together like the hooves of a deer. Between the buds, a short thorn grows.



This shrub can grow up to 25 feet! Its gray-brown bark has flakes or cork-like bumps. Nicking the bark will reveal an orange inner tissue.



Buckthorn has glossy, egg-shaped leaves that stay green later in fall than other plants'. Leaf veins curve toward the tip. Leaf edges are toothed.



Dark, round berries develop between July and September. (Be careful not to spread any of those seedy berries! And don't eat them: They're toxic.)