

# BUST YOUR BUCKTHORN!

Help save our community forest . . .  
Remove the invasive, non-native plant, BUCKTHORN, from your property!

## WHY BUST BUCKTHORN?

Common Buckthorn and Glossy Buckthorn are the two types of non-native, invasive buckthorns found in Minnesota. Both were introduced to North America from Europe in the 1800s. These buckthorn species have long been used as hedges, ornamental shrubs and shelterbelts in homeowners' yards. However, it quickly moves from pruned, well-kept yards and invades parks, roadsides, forests, and your neighbor's backyard. By removing buckthorn plants on your own property you prevent the dispersal of seeds to other land. We need your help removing buckthorn from our community forest!

### Bad things about buckthorn:

- out-competes our native plants for light, moisture and nutrients
- reduces species diversity of plants and song birds in forest
- destroys wildlife habitat
- provides only one type of fruit for songbirds when other native foods have diminished
- has seeds that remain viable up to 6 years
- has messy fruits that stain cars, decks and concrete
- tolerates shade, full-sun, drought and poor soils
- lacks natural controls like insects and plant diseases that attack it
- hosts crop pests: crown rust fungus (*Puccinia coronata*) and soybean aphid (*Aphis glycines*)
- threatens the future of our forests, prairies and parks

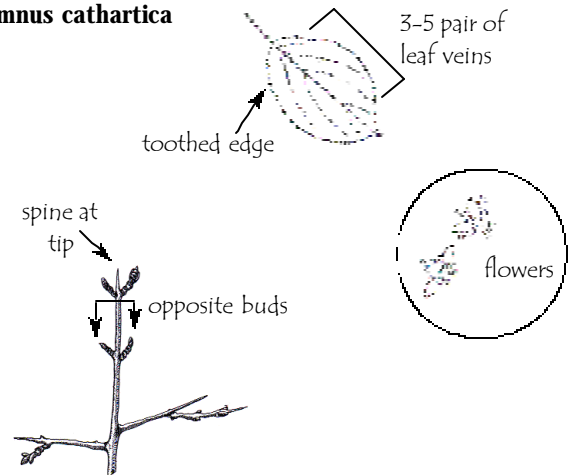
Note: Common and Glossy Buckthorn are considered to be RESTRICTED NOXIOUS WEEDS by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. This means that sale, transportation, or movement of these plants is prohibited statewide.



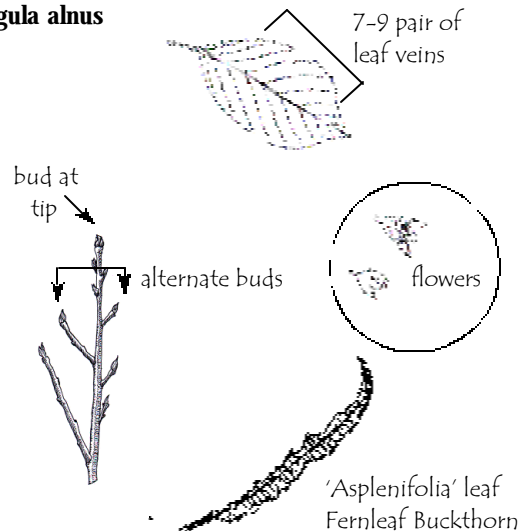
## IDENTIFICATION

Buckthorn is a shrub that grows to be a small tree reaching height of 25' with a trunk diameter up to 10" or larger, crown spreading and irregular in shape.

### Common Buckthorn *Rhamnus cathartica*



### Glossy Buckthorn *Frangula alnus*



## BUCKTHORN REMOVAL

- Remove buckthorn from late June to December or when snow and cold weather are here to stay.
- Use a combination of pulling, digging, and cutting
- Tamp disturbed soil resulting from pulling and digging to discourage reinfestation
- Treat cut stumps to prevent resprouting

### Hand Removal

Pull out small seedlings by hand. Removal is easier when soil is moist.

### Digging

Buckthorn doesn't re-sprout from underground roots. However, digging up the underground roots may be necessary for replacement plants to establish. Before you dig call **GOPHER STATE ONE CALL** at 1-800-252-1166 to locate all underground lines in your yard.

### Weed Wrench™ or Root Talon™

Use to pull up larger plants 3/8" - 1 1/2" diameter. You can rent these from a local hardware store.

### Cutting

Cut woody plants larger than 1 1/2" diameter. Then chemically treat the stump or use the tin can method.

### Cut Stump Treatment

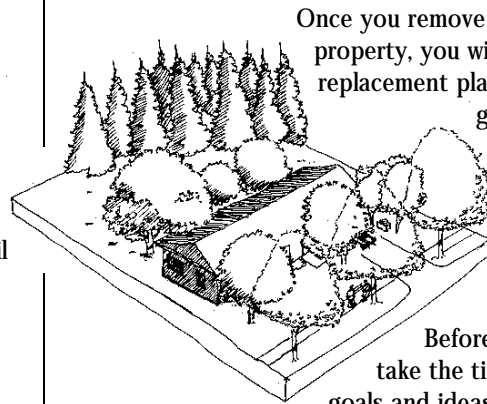
Cut stumps can be chemically treated with Stronger Roundup, which is 25% glyphosate, using a paint-brush, wick applicator, or a low volume sprayer. **See chemical label for all mixing and application instructions!!** It is very important that bark on the sides of the stump and all exposed roots be treated, as well as the top of the stump. Apply chemical immediately or within 24 hours after the cut to be most effective against re-sprouting. Don't use Stronger Roundup directly next to water. Call your Department of Natural Resources for requirements.

### Tin Can Method

This method is an alternative to chemical treatment to prevent a stump from resprouting. When cutting, leave 3" stump above the soil. Use a tin can several inches in diameter larger than the stump. Drill nail holes around the entire can 2" below the can opening. Set the can over the stump. Push the can into the soil at least 1". Nail through the holes into the stump. Leave in place for two years. If green sprouts emerge, remove them as soon as they appear. These shoots are a signal that you need a larger diameter can.

## REPLACING YOUR BUCKTHORN

### Landscaping without buckthorn



Once you remove buckthorn from your property, you will want to determine replacement plants. This provides a great opportunity to re-design your landscape to conserve energy, create wildlife habitat, and beautify your home!

Before selecting your plants, take the time to outline the goals and ideas you have for your home landscape. If you are re-planting new plants in the same place where your buckthorn once grew, the soil will benefit if you wait 1-2 years before re-planting.

### Here are some options to get you started!

#### Hedge Plants

Amelanchier spp. Serviceberry  
Cornus spp. Dogwood  
Juniperus spp. Juniper  
Syringa spp. Lilacs  
Viburnum spp. Viburnums

#### Ornamental Shrubs

Diervilla lonicera Dwarf bush honeysuckle  
Prunus besseyi Western sandcherry  
Salix discolor Pussy willow  
Symphoricarpos albus Snowberry

Note: Check with your local nursery, extension service, Department of Natural Resources or Department of Agriculture about details and specific species recommendations for your area.

**Questions? Want more information about buckthorn?  
Need buckthorn identified on your property?**

**CALL** \_\_\_\_\_