

Glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*)

Also called: European alder buckthorn

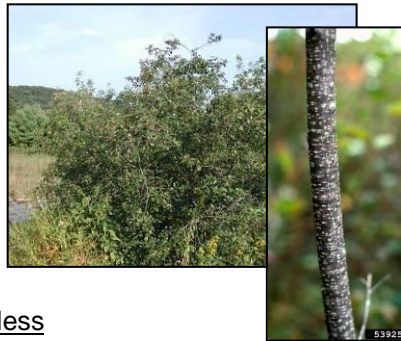
Family name: Buckthorn family (Rhamnaceae)

Native range: Europe

NJ Status: Emerging Stage 2 – Uncommon (may be regionally common or abundant). It is *highly threatening* to natural plant communities. Eradicate all detected occurrences.

General description:

- Colonial, deciduous tree or shrub to 20' tall
- Young branches covered in short, soft hairs
- Twigs spineless



Leaves:

- Alternate, untoothed, tapered at the tip
- Oblong to oval, 1"-2.5" long
- Dark green with short hairs below and shiny above
- Turning greenish-yellow to yellow in the fall and persisting



Flowers:

- Inconspicuous with 5 green-white petals
- Small, axillary clusters of 2-8 flowers
- Blooms May-June



Fruit:

- Round, single-seeded fruits
- 0.25" across
- Ripening from red to black
- Flowers, partially ripe and ripe fruits may appear on the tree at the same time
- Ripening July-August



Glossy buckthorn fruit is single-seeded

Habitat:

- Forest, meadow, roadside, landscaping
- Prefers wet or moist soil



Unripe fruit

Commercial availability:

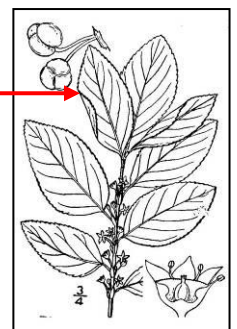
Yes

Look-alikes:

See Common buckthorn Fact Sheet for more information.

Alder-leaved buckthorn (*Rhamnus alnifolia*)

- Native shrub, 3' tall
- Leaves alternate, toothed
- Twigs not spine tipped
- Clusters of 1-3 flowers per inflorescence
- Fruits 3-seeded



Common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*)

- Invasive European tree to 20' tall
- Leaves toothed
- Opposite or nearly so
- Twigs often spine tipped
- Clusters of 10-15 flowers per inflorescence
- Fruits 4-seeded



Dahurian buckthorn (*Rhamnus davurica*)

- Invasive large shrub to small tree to 23'
- Leaves opposite or nearly so, finely toothed
- Twigs often spine tipped
- Clusters of 10-15 flowers per inflorescence
- Fruits 2-seeded



Lanceolate buckthorn (*Rhamnus lanceolata*)

- Native shrub, 3'-6' tall
- Leaves alternate, toothed
- Twigs not spine tipped
- Clusters of 2-3 flowers per inflorescence
- Fruits 2-seeded