

# COMMON BUCKTHORN

**Scientific Name** *Rhamnus cathartica*

**Other Common Name** European Buckthorn

**Nursery Cultivars** None

**Shape of Plant** 10-25 feet tall; oval form, upright

**Habitat** Dry areas such as woodlands, savannas, abandoned fields, roadsides. It will grow in both full sun and in shade.

**Leaves** Egg-shaped, dark green, dull to glossy; with finely tooth edges; 3-5 pair of curved leaf veins. Leaves stay dark green and on the tree late into fall.

Luke Skinner, MnDNR

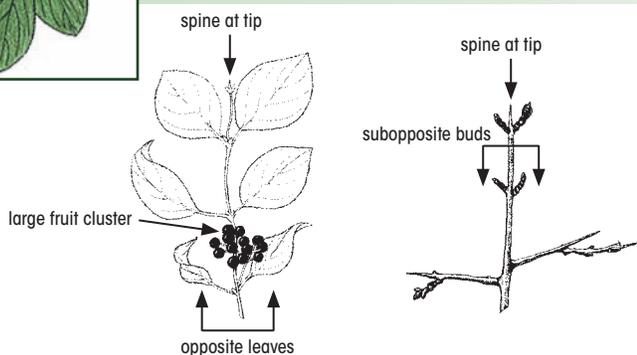


**Flowers** Small, yellow-green color; 4 petals; produced in May.

**Stems** Buds are opposite; sharp thorn at tip of the twig.

**Fruit and Seed** Round, berry-like fruit arranged in large clusters; 1/4-inch diameter; green-black color. Each fruit has 3-4 seeds. Berries are persistent.

Mark Müller



# GLOSSY BUCKTHORN

**Scientific Name** *Frangula alnus*

**Other Common Name** Fen Buckthorn, Alder Buckthorn

**Nursery Cultivars** 'Columnaris' (tall hedge buckthorn) 'Asplenifolia' (fernleaf buckthorn)

**Shape of Plant** 10-18 feet tall; oval form; upright

**Habitat** Primarily wet areas (bogs, marshes, riverbanks, wetlands, pond edges), but also will grow in dry areas. It will grow in both full sun and in shade.

**Leaves** Oval, smooth, dark, glossy, with toothless edges; 8-9 pair of leaf veins. Leaves stay green late into fall.

Luke Skinner, MnDNR

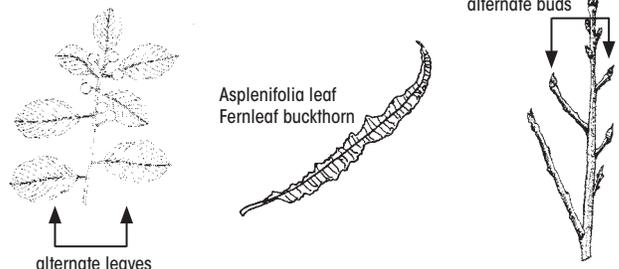


**Flowers** Small, creamy-green color; 5 petals; produced in late May-June.

**Stems** Buds are alternate; no thorn at tip of the twig.

**Fruit and Seed** Round, berry-like fruit; 1/4-inch diameter; produces less fruit than the common buckthorn; red-brown to black in color. Each fruit has 2-3 seeds. Berries are not persistent.

Mark Müller



## FINDING BUCKTHORN

Buckthorn is easily found in late fall when native shrubs and trees have lost their leaves. Buckthorn will often have green leaves into the month of December. It is hard to miss.