

LIFE AFTER BUCKTHORN REMOVAL

After buckthorn removal, many sites may require replanting of desirable tree, shrub, and herbaceous species. Removing buckthorn not only will benefit the environment, it provides opportunities to create wildlife habitat, redesign your landscape, and beautify an area.

Do not make hasty decisions with your land after you have removed or controlled buckthorn. Think about the goals and objectives you have for your property. If you are replanting in the same places buckthorn once grew, the soil will benefit if you wait one or two years before replanting other trees and shrubs. Check with a local nursery, extension service, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, or Minnesota Department of Agriculture for assistance on species recommended for your area.

Alternative plantings for buckthorn

Several species of native trees and shrubs display characteristics similar to buckthorn. The following plants are examples of some of the environmentally-friendly species available at garden centers and nurseries.

High-bush cranberry (*Viburnum trilobum*)



Welby Smith

This multi-stemmed bush has lovely spring flowers and persistent red berries. Left unpruned, it will grow tall, but it can be pruned into a dense hedge. The European species (*Viburnum opulus*)

is often sold in nurseries, but is invasive, and should be avoided.

Nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*)



Welby Smith

Nannyberry is a tall shrub that grows in a variety of soils. It spreads gradually from a central clump, forming nicely shaped thickets. It has sweet, edible, blue-black fruits.

Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*)



Welby Smith

Chokecherry grows in a variety of soil types. It develops into a tall shrub on rich, loam soils. When planted on dry, sandy soil, it takes on a shorter, bushier form. The bright berries make a delicious jelly and are an important food for wildlife.

Grey dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*)



Welby Smith

Grey dogwood commonly forms thickets at wetland margins, woods edges, streambanks, low spots in prairies and savannas, and along roadsides and abandoned fields.

It tolerates a variety of soil types. It is good for filling slopes or edges.

Pagoda dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*)



Welby Smith

Native to rich, deciduous forests, pagoda dogwood is also commonly planted as a small ornamental tree. It prefers rich, loam soil where the rooting area is protected from summer

heat or drought. Its branches spread in horizontal layers, giving the tree a beautiful form.

American hazelnut (*Corylus americana*)



Welby Smith

American hazelnut is a widespread shrub found in dry to moist forests and woodlands. It grows in a variety of soil types and tolerates dry, sandy soil or gravelly slopes. In the open,

it sends up many stems, forming clumps. It provides food and cover for wildlife.

Black chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*)



Welby Smith

Black chokeberry typically grows at the margins of lakes and wetlands—places where the soil is fairly rich and moist, and where it can get partial sun. It is colonial, but not aggressive. Black chokeberry has attractive white flowers in early summer, and shiny black berries with lovely red foliage in the autumn.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Call the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources at (651) 296-6157 or (888) MINN-DNR or visit www.mndnr.gov/invasives/terrestrialplants/woody/buckthorn/index.html

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