

## *Frangula alnus*, Glossy Buckthorn

Glossy Buckthorn is especially invasive to wetland areas. This plant can form dense stands that reduce native vegetation, also engaging in species-specific allelopathy – changing the soil chemistry to make conditions more favorable to buckthorn specifically.

**Description:** This plant has gray/brown bark with obvious white lenticels. The leaves are oval shaped and alternate, although they often appear opposite because the leaves are positioned stratified. The leaves are a dark green in color and often times appear shiny on the top but dull on the underside. These leaves also typically have eight or nine pairs of veins.

**Control:** Smaller shrubs can be removed manually by digging, cutting, or pulling. Burning seedlings is also an option that may work in specific cases. When removing this plant, it is important to remove and dispose of all the ripened fruit, which can be quite numerous and falls off easily. Herbicides can also be used, which are most effective when applied in the fall or early winter. A systematic herbicide, such as glyphosate, is effective in destroying the root system.

**Look-alikes:** Some species that may be confused with Glossy Buckthorn are the native buckthorns (*Rhamnus* spp.) and also some cherries (*Prunus* spp.). Common Buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) is also similarly confused but has very different bark.

**Flower Time:** Flowers bloom from late May through September. The flowers are pale yellow, forming small clusters from the leaf axils. The fruit is red to dark purple.

