

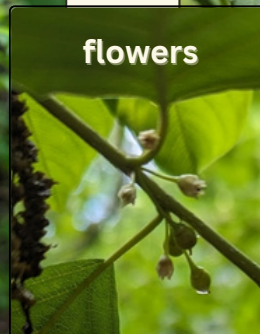
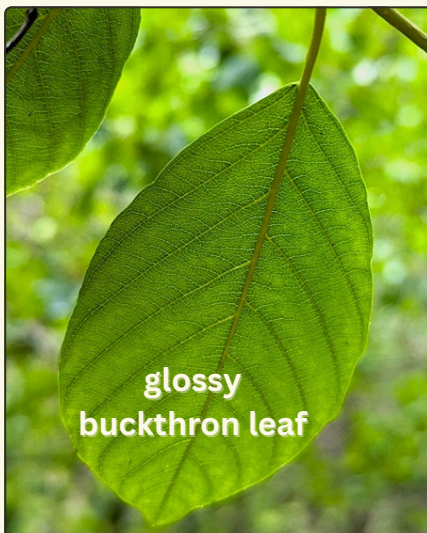
Buckthorn

Invasive Plant Fact Sheet

DESCRIPTION

Two types of invasive buckthorn are common in Medford. Both are fast growing small trees (20+ft) / multi stemmed shrubs with round leaves that leaf out early and remain green later than most natives. They have small berry-like fruits that ripen to black, and weak yellow wood.

Glossy buckthorn *Frangula alnus* has grey bark with white speckles (lenticels). Leaves are shiny, smooth-edged, and deeply veined.



Common buckthorn *Rhamnus cathartica* has dark green leaves with fine teeth. It has woody, often thorn-tipped twigs. Bark looks like a cherry but the flowers are tiny.



WHY YOU SHOULD CARE

- Buckthorns are prolific and fast growing, forming dense thickets that destroy the forest understory preventing any native plants from growing.
- High seed production, viability, and a lack of predators or diseases make these trees dominant, even in healthy and intact native habitats.
- The fruit can make birds sick but they eat it after infestation when native forage options (like spicebush and winterberry fruit) become scarce.

MORE INFO ON THE BACK!



Buckthorn

Management Methods

CONTROL METHODS

Surveillance is critical buckthorn is EXTREMELY common in our yards and most people have no idea what it is or why it's a problem.

Communicate with neighbors collaborative efforts are important as infestations often start on borders and spread near and far.

Start with Manual Control - hand pull saplings / use a weed wrench to uproot larger buckthorn.

- If buckthorn is too big to pull, cut down just above ground level.
- Buckthorn will re-sprout multiple stems forming a shrub if roots are not removed.

HERBICIDE METHOD*

- Painting a freshly cut stump with herbicide can prevent regrowth.
- Triclopyr or glyphosate products may be labeled for control but must be used at high % concentrations. Consult a professional applicator for assistance.

***Follow herbicide labels.**

NON-HERBICIDE METHOD

- Cut regrowth back repeatedly over several growing seasons.
- After roots are exhausted buckthorn can be pulled/pushed over more easily.



Uprooted glossy buckthorn

POST-TREATMENT

WOODY MATERIAL & ROOTS

- **Root crowns** should be elevated off the ground or they may reroot. Place roots on the top of a covered brush pile, on asphalt, tarps, or in heavy duty trash bags.
- Keep materials bagged/covered until completely dry or rotten.
- Once dead, the material can be disposed of in your household trash or yard waste pickup - **don't dispose of fresh root crowns in your yard waste.**

FRUIT AND SEEDS

- Target removals **before fruit ripens** in the early Summer.
- If ripe fruit is present, make sure it is bagged and kept at temps above 131°F for at least a week.
- Soil disturbance triggers seed germination so monitor sites for seedlings in the seasons following removal.



Glossy buckthorn roots



To learn more about invasives in Medford, scan the QR code or visit <https://bit.ly/02155Invasives>

