

DEDHAM'S LEAST WANTED!

Glossy Buckthorn, *Frangula alnus*



Origin: Glossy buckthorn is native to Europe and was first introduced into the United States in the mid 1800s as an ornamental.

Identification / Habitat: Glossy buckthorn is a large shrub or small tree that can grow to heights of 25 feet. The dark green leaves are shiny, sometime opposite, and simple with prominent venation and the underside of the leaves hairy. The flowers are inconspicuous, pale yellow in color, and occur in clusters in the leaf axis. Flowering occurs in the spring. The fruit ripens to a dark purple color. The bark is gray to brown with white lenticels (pores that allow the interchange of gases between the interior tissue and the surrounding air).

Dispersal: All non-native buckthorns propagate by seed dispersal via bird or mice, but cut stumps, any root remaining in the ground, or burned will re-sprout.

Problems: Glossy Buckthorn invades moist woodlands and disturbed areas throughout the Northeast and Midwest, and is tolerant of many soil types. Its rapid growth and prolific seed production make these plants an aggressive invader that can form dense thickets which shade and displace native understory plants, shrubs, and tree seedlings. Like many invasives, plants leaf out early and retain leaves late into the fall creating dense shade to native plants. **Look-Alikes:** Alder buckthorn (*Rhamnus alnifolia*) is a small native shrub less than 3 feet in height with twigs that are hairless and dark scales on the buds in winter. It usually occurs in wetlands.

Control: Glossy buckthorn is most effectively controlled by recognizing its appearance early and removing isolated plants before they begin to produce seed. Hand pulling is effective in small infestations as long as the full root system is removed as well. Foliar spray is not recommended as it can be harmful to the surrounding area.



Any removal within 100 feet of wetland resource areas, including certified vernal pools, or within 200 feet of a perennial stream will require approval from the Dedham Conservation Commission. Please contact the Conservation Department before you begin!

