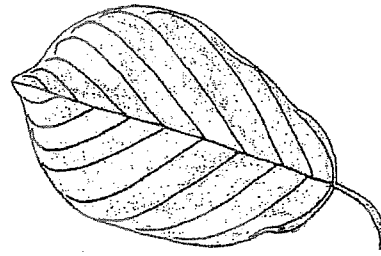


Leaves:

- Alternate arrangement
- *Margin w/ NO teeth
- Wider at end than base
- *Yellow fall color



Buds:

- *Naked (NO scales)
- *Small, brown, fuzzy
- Alternate arrangement

Thorns: None

Bark:

Very similar to choke cherry
 DON'T ID by bark!

Glossy Buckthorn
Frangula alnus
 (formerly *Rhamnus frangula*)

Glossy Buckthorn *Frangula alnus* (tape leaf in space above)

This invader blooms continuously from May through September when it is growing on a moist, sunny site. Flowers are small, pink and white, and perfect. Fruit is less than 1 cm. in diameter; it turns red, then nearly black. Since it blooms for four months, it is producing fruit for three months; a long flowering and fruiting period is a characteristic of many invasive plants.

This species has spread through wetland areas and adjacent woods wherever there is a nearby seed source. In heavily infested areas, both common and glossy buckthorn will grow together in upland and lowland habitats. More than eighty years ago, Minneapolis school teacher and botanist Eloise Butler wrote about the invasiveness of glossy buckthorn in her wildflower preserve. Now it exists in 22 Minnesota counties and 23 central and north eastern states--especially near urban areas.

BUCKTHORN NOW BANNED FROM THE NURSERY TRADE

2001 was the first year that *glossy* buckthorn and its cultivars could no longer be sold in Minnesota. The MN Dept. of Agriculture (MDA) placed *common* buckthorn on the "Restricted Noxious Weed List" in 1999. Common buckthorn hasn't been sold since the 1930's when research proved it was the alternate host of oat crown rust. (But the birds continued to transport and plant it through their droppings.) Surprisingly, *glossy* buckthorn was sold in numbers as high as 60,000 per year from wholesale nurseries in Minnesota and Wisconsin--for 30 years! People are generally shocked to learn that these two species have been promoted for over 100 years.

Common Buckthorn *Rhamnus cathartica*

Leaves:

- Opposite or sub-opposite arrangement
(*sometimes* alternate)
- Margin- wavy w/ small rounded serrate teeth
- Shape- oval; leaf
- Size- can be much larger than normal on stump sprout re-growth

Buds:

- Sub-opposite or opposite arrangement
(*sometimes* alternate)
- *Paired terminal buds look like a buck hoof print
- Dark brown to black with multiple scales
- Approx. ¼ in. long

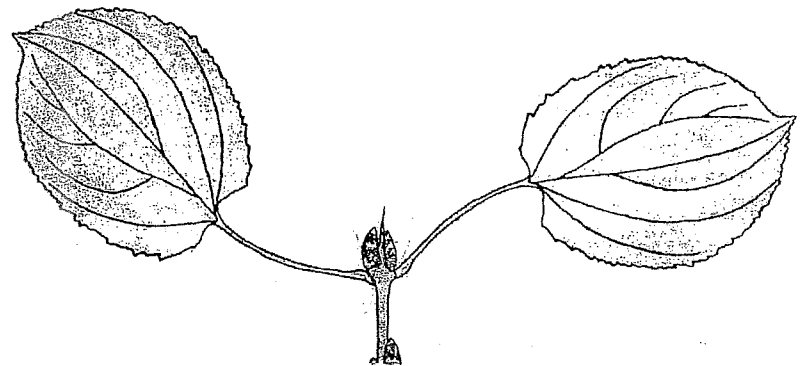
Thorns:

- Small; approx. ¼ in. long
- *Wedged between the *terminal* buds on twig ends.

Bark:

Very similar to choke cherry, American plum & other natives.
 DON'T ID by bark!

*Key ID feature



Common (European) Buckthorn
Rhamnus cathartica