

**Glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*)**

**Also called:** European alder buckthorn

**Family name:** Buckthorn family (Rhamnaceae)

**Native range:** Europe

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 2 – Uncommon (may be regionally common or abundant). It is *highly threatening* to natural communities. Eradicate all detected occurrences.

**General description:**

- Colonial, deciduous tree or shrub to 20' tall
- Young branches covered in short, soft hairs
- Twigs spineless

**Leaves:**

- Alternate, occasionally opposite
- Untoothed, tapered at the tip, edges wavy
- 1"-2.5" long
- Dark green with short hairs below and shiny above
- Turning greenish-yellow to yellow in the fall and persisting



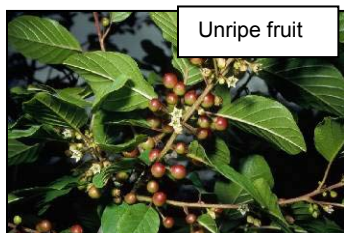
**Flowers:**

- Inconspicuous with 5 green-white petals
- Small, axillary clusters of 2-8 flowers
- Blooms May-June



**Fruit:**

- Round, single-seeded fruits, 0.25"
- Ripening from red to black- July/August
- Flowers, partially ripe and ripe fruits may appear at the same time



**Habitat:**

- Forest, meadow, roadside, landscaping
- Prefers wet or moist soil

**Commercial availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

See Common buckthorn Fact Sheet for more information.

**Alder-leaved buckthorn (*Rhamnus alnifolia*)**

- Native shrub, 3' tall
- Leaves alternate, toothed
- Twigs not spine tipped
- Clusters of 1-3 flowers per inflorescence
- Fruits 3-seeded

**Common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*)**

- Invasive European tree to 20' tall
- Leaves toothed
- Opposite or nearly so
- Clusters of 10-15 flowers per inflorescence
- Twigs often spine tipped
- Fruits 4-seeded
- NOTE: See NJISST fact sheet for more on this plant



**Dahurian buckthorn (*Rhamnus davurica*)**

- Invasive large shrub to small tree to 23'
- Leaves opposite or nearly so, finely toothed
- Twigs often spine tipped
- Numerous flowers
- Fruits 2-seeded



Flowers more numerous than on common or glossy buckthorn

- NOTE: See NJISST fact sheet for more on this plant

**Lanceolate buckthorn (*Rhamnus lanceolata*)**

- Native shrub, 3'-6' tall
- Leaves alternate, toothed
- Twigs not spine tipped
- Clusters of 2-3 flowers per inflorescence
- Fruits 2-seeded