

Buckthorn (*Rhamnus spp.*)

Species names:

Common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) and Dahurian buckthorn (*Rhamnus davurica*)

NOTE: species may hybridize

Family name: Buckthorn (Rhamnaceae)

Habitat:

- Forest, open forest, meadow, roadside, landscaping

Commercial Availability: Yes

Common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*)

Also called: European buckthorn

Native range: Europe

NJ Status: Emerging Stage 2- Uncommon (may be regionally common). It is *highly threatening* to natural plant communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

General description:

- Small deciduous tree/shrub, to 20'
- Smooth branches, often end in spines
- Especially aggressive in wet soils



Branches often end in spines.

Leaves:

- Slightly off-opposite leaves
- Finely toothed, oval/elliptical, hairless
- Shiny and dark green above-- may stand out from other vegetation
- Leaves remain green late into the fall, after most other species have dropped
- 3-4 distinct up-curved leaf veins

Leaves are almost opposite, but not quite



Flowers:

- Bloom May-June as leaves appear
- Small, yellow-green, grow near leaf axils
- Blooms in clusters of 2-6

Fruit:

- August- September
- Round, dark purple/black berry in leaf axils (0.25")
- Tree appears heavy with berries



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Dahurian buckthorn (*Rhamnus davurica*)

Native range: Asia

NJ Status: Emerging State 0- Absent or rare. It is *highly threatening* to natural plant communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

General description:

- Deciduous tree, to 30'
- Spines on twigs and branches



4-6 veins on each leaf

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