

Frangula alnus – Glossy Buckthorn
Invasive shrub



Rhamnus cathartica – Common Buckthorn
Invasive shrub

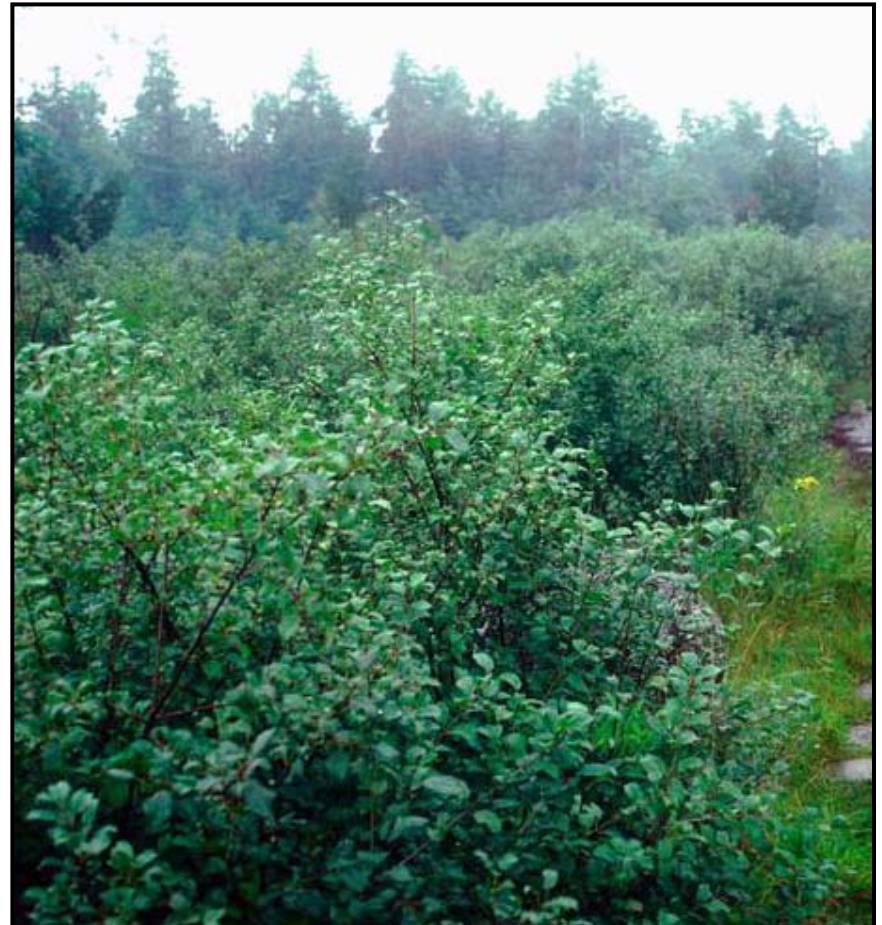


Left: Note fruits and leaf venation. Right: Branches end in a single thorn. Photos: Les Mehrhoff, IPANE

Rhamnus cathartica – Common Buckthorn
Invasive shrub



Common buckthorn foliage. Photo: Donna Ellis, UConn



*Invasion of common buckthorn.
Photo: John M. Randall, The Nature Conservancy, Bugwood.org*

Frangula alnus –
Glossy Buckthorn



*Glossy buckthorn flowers. Top photo: Les Mehrhoff, IPANE.
Bottom photo: Rob Routledge, Sault College, Bugwood.org*

Rhamnus cathartica –
Common Buckthorn



*Common buckthorn flowers. Top photo: Les Mehrhoff, IPANE.
Bottom photo: Rob Routledge, Sault College, Bugwood.org*

Comparison

Frangula alnus vs. *Rhamnus cathartica* Glossy Buckthorn vs. Common Buckthorn

Glossy buckthorn traits:

- **Leaves:** glossy; oblong to elliptical; alternate
- **Leaf venation:** five or more pairs of veins that run parallel from the midrib; smooth or wavy along margins
- **Flowers:** greenish-yellow with five petals
- **Fruits:** ripen from red to purple-black fruit with two to three seeds
- **Twigs:** thornless

Common buckthorn traits:

- **Leaves:** dull green; oblong; opposite
- **Leaf venation:** three to four pairs of veins which curve toward the tip from the mid-vein; tiny teeth along margins
- **Flowers:** greenish-yellow with four petals
- **Fruits:** black fruit with three to four seeds
- **Twigs:** spike-like thorns at the tips