



A thicket of overgrown buckthorns is shown here. Photo by Friends of Green Bay Trail.

THE BUCKTHORN INVASION

Why its important to rid our landscapes of this invasive species and how to do it.

SUBMITTED BY GLENCOE SUSTAINABILITY TASK FORCE

- 1. Dark green, shiny leaves of buckthorn. Buckthorns leaf out early - yellow flowers on the female plants show up in May. Photo by: Rob Routledge, Sault College, Bugwood.org
- 2. The bark of the buckthorn tree can also have long sharp thorns that remain all along the branches. Photo by: Robert Vidéki, Doronicum Kft., Bugwood.org
- 3. Individual berries in clusters that when ripe turn black. Photo by: Jan Samanek, Phytosanitary Administration, Bugwood.org
- 4. The bark of a buckthorn is gray to brown, flaky with an orange inner tissue. Photo by: John M. Randall, The Nature Conservancy, Bugwood.org

WHAT IS BUCKTHORN?

- Buckthorn is an invasive plant species in Illinois that prevents native plants from thriving and will crowd out most other kinds of trees
- It comes in the shape of a large shrub or small tree up to 25-30 ft high
- Its bark is gray to brown, flaky with an orange inner tissue
- It has dark green shiny oval leaves with 3-5 distinct veins
- Its berries form as individual berries in clusters that when ripe turn black

WHY IS BUCKTHORN BAD?

- It spreads and grows rapidly via seed
- It prevents native plants and trees from establishing themselves
- It deprives native animal life its natural habitats
- Its dense thickets shade and can even eliminate essential native understory plants, shrubs, and trees

HOW TO GET RID OF BUCKTHORN

Around the village, many homeowners do not recognize buckthorn as an invasive species and treat it as a bush or hedge allowing it to spread outside their property lines. As a homeowner, if you have buckthorn, you should remove it and replant the area with noninvasive hedges or native plants. Buckthorn is easy to identify in the fall by its bark.

Buckthorn is difficult but not impossible to remove. It can regenerate after cutting so herbicides may be needed to rid the buckthorn completely. It is suggested to remove buckthorn from one's property and replace it with non-invasive hedges and native plants:

- Chain saw to cut the largest branches and trunks
- Branch cutters to cut the thinner branches
- Paint the stump with glyphosate to kill the roots

If your buckthorn tree is larger than 8" in diameter, it requires a tree removal permit from the Village of Glencoe - which is free! Call (847) 835-4111 for more information.

Learn more about buckthorn at: <https://dnr.illinois.gov/content/dam/soi/en/web/dnr/conservation/crep/documents/woodland-buckthorn.pdf>



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