

# Common buckthorn

*Rhamnus cathartica*

**VERY INVASIVE – upcoming in the Arrowhead**

Invasive habitat: forest borders, along roadsides, fencerows, river banks, occasionally in swamps.

Native range: Europe.



*Known in the Arrowhead, more common in Lake Co.*



## IDENTIFICATION



Growth form: deciduous shrub that forms dense thickets. Several stems creating a spreading, loosely-branched crown to 25'. Thorny.



Flowers: inconspicuous green flowers that produce black berries. Blooms early summer.



Leaves: elliptic, smooth on both surfaces, minutely toothed, and retained late in the growing season.



Seeds: seeds contain a laxative compound and are bird dispersed.

## CONTROL



**Manual**: hand pulling or using weed-wrenches can control small patches.



**Chemical**: Garlon 4 Ultra for leaves and cut stumps, Pathfinder II for cut stumps.



**Prescribed fire**: can control small plants if done repeatedly, but will stimulate re-sprouting.



**Cultural**: do NOT plant hedges of buckthorn. Clean equipment and vehicles to control seed spread.



**Mechanical**: cutting must be accompanied by herbicide use to be effective.