

Removing Invasive Species: Buckthorn

Rhamnus cathartica



Identification



Dark leaves with prominent veins (top left) and dark blue berries (top right). It has leaves earlier and sheds them later than most native plants.

Removal



When removing Buckthorn, be sure to pull up the entire plant and its whole root system using a weed wrench. This will ensure that the plant will not grow back. Be careful to also pull up all the small fibrous roots attached to the larger root system, as shown in the image on the left.

Replacement



After removal, replace it with Alternate-leaf Dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*). This tree flowers in the summer and grows to be about 30 ft. tall.