

# Common Buckthorn

*Rhamnus cathartica*



Peiinvasives.ca

Mature Height	20 to 25 feet	Soil Type	Prefers well drained
Mature Spread	20 or more feet	Flower Color	Green—very small
Mature Form	Irregular and spreading	Foliage Color	Green
Growth Rate	Rapid	Fall Color	Green into November
Sun Exposure	Prefers sun Tolerates shade		
Soil Moisture	Thrives on well drained		

Common Buckthorn was imported from Eurasia in the 1800’s for landscaping and hedge purposes and soon became invasive. It invades forests, riparian areas as well as savannas, prairies, old fields and roadsides. It leafs out very early in the spring and keeps its leaves late into the fall. Creates dense shade, eliminating regeneration of tree seedlings and understory species. This is another of the invasive plants that has an allelopathy effect releasing chemicals that inhibit the growth of other vegetation, especially desirable native plants. Twig end in thorns. Cut stump treatment with a 50% glyphosate is an effective control measure.



University of Georgia



Purdue University Weed Ecology Lab



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This fact sheet was developed by the West Central Indiana Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) with funding by the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust. The CWMA consists of 27 western and central Indiana counties and strives to help land users identify and control invasive terrestrial plants through workshops, field days and other educational activities.

