

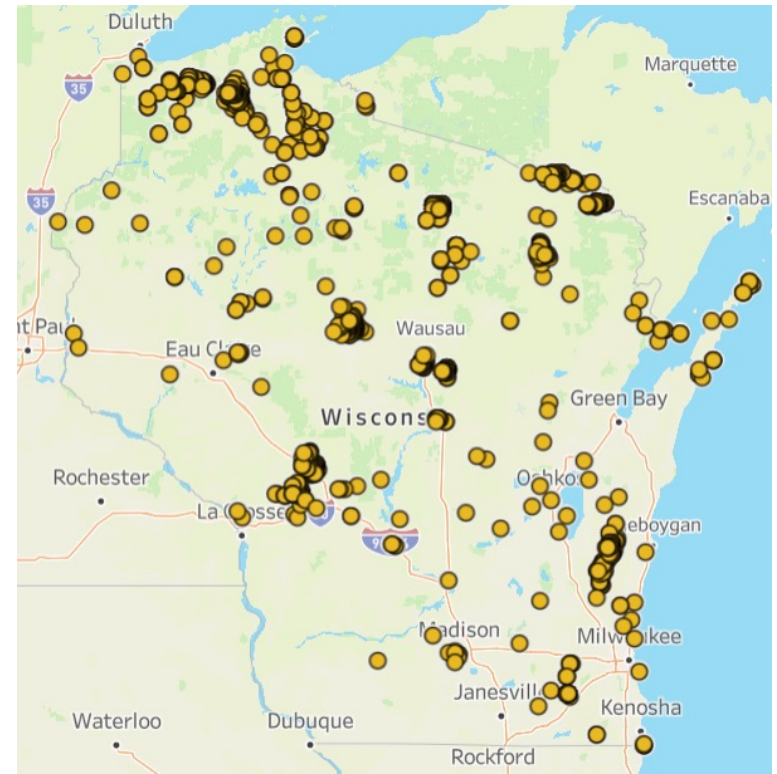
Glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*)



Renz Weed Science
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL & LIFE SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



- Large shrub or small tree with speckled bark and glossy leaves
- Habitats it invades:
 - Forests
 - Wetlands
- Status
 - Wisconsin: Restricted
 - Regulated in: MN, OH, IN, IL



Glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*)



Renz Weed Science
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL & LIFE SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Leaves alternate, simple

- 1.5-3" long, with prominent veins
- Leaf margins entire
- Young stems with speckled bark



Glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*)



Renz Weed Science
COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL & LIFE SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

Flower/fruit

- Flowers are small, white, and have 5 triangular petals; May-June
- Flowers are borne in little clusters in the leaf axils
- Fruit is a black berry



© Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org



© Rob Routledge, Sault College, Bugwood.org



Buckthorn look alikes

Common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) and glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*) may be confused with each other and with **native** *Prunus* (cherries, plums) and **native** *Alnus* (alder) species based on leaves and bark. Buckthorns can be most easily differentiated from *Prunus* and *Alnus* species based on flower/fruit characteristics.



COMMON BUCKTHORN (left) bark is shiny dark gray with dark lenticels. Leaves are egg-shaped with small teeth; veins curve towards tip of leaf.



GLOSSY BUCKTHORN (right) bark is tan with light-colored lenticels. Leaves are egg to oval shaped with no teeth; veins point towards edges of leaf.



PRUNUS species (left) like cherries and plums have variable bark color, but younger bark has noticeable lenticels. *Prunus* leaves are **toothed with an abrupt point at the tip**. Example shown is choke cherry (*P. virginiana*).



ALDERS (right) have light-colored lenticels. Leaves have a similar vein pattern to glossy buckthorn but are **toothed**. Example shown is speckled alder (*Alnus incana*).