

Chinese buckthorn

Rhamnus utilis

Description

Introduced to North America as an ornamental.

Habit

Shrub or small tree that can grow up to 3m tall and is capable of forming dense colonies.

Leaves

Opposite to subopposite, stalked (5-12mm.), shiny green above, yellowish green beneath, 6-12 cm long, narrow, pointed at the tip, toothed margin with 5-8 pairs of yellowish veins.

Stems

Smooth, sharp spines between each bud.

Flowers

Small, yellowish green in color, borne in clusters at the leaf axils. Blooms from May to June.

Fruits and Seeds

Fleshy drupes borne in clusters at the leaf axils, black in color, 6-7 mm. wide with 2 seeds.

Habitat





Native to China. Can be found in forests, thickets, mountains, hillsides, grassy slopes, roadsides and old fields.

Reproduction

By seed and vegetatively.

Similar

Common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), Japanese buckthorn (*Rhamnus japonica*), and Dahurian buckthorn (*Rhamnus davurica*)

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Prescribed burning can be used to kill seeds and seedlings in the spring. Hand pulling and weed wrenching can also be used to remove seedlings and mature plants up to 7 cm across. Cutting will result in vigorous re-sprouts. Glyphosate can be applied immediately after cutting or via stem injections.

Credits

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