

Invasive Buckthorn is not native to this area. Invasive plants do great damage to field, forest, and wild animal environments, pushing out our native plants. They cannot be eaten by our wild animals. They degrade healthy forests that we need for sugaring, logging, hunting, and recreation. Invasives are very hard to get rid of but can be kept at bay. We are asking you to help manage them in Halifax, especially on your own property.

We have two invasive buckthorn species, Common Buckthorn and Glossy Buckthorn. They were brought to America as ornamental plants. Then they escaped.

- Type: deciduous, shedding leaves in late fall.
- Height: 6 to 25 feet tall.
- Bark: dark grey to blackish-brown with white lenticels (bumpy pores) and bright orange or lemon-yellow inner bark (see this when you cut the tree).
- Leaves: dark green, oval, 1.5 to 3 inches long, slightly sawtoothed; veins curve toward a folded tip.

Photo: Glossy Buckthorn compared to Common Buckthorn (<https://buckthornproject.org>).

- Fruit: small, black berries about 1/4 inch in diameter. They persist in winter.

In spring, buckthorn leafs out early, so it's easy to spot.



What to Do:

- Pull young plants out by hand; cut large plants and cover stumps with black plastic or tin cans (nailed down on stump).
- Girdle the trunk and let it die.
- Bag and dispose of fruits to prevent seed dispersal.
- Leave cut plants on site in a manner that allows roots to dry out and decompose.
- Remember that digging and pulling can disturb soil and encourage buried seeds to grow.
- Treatments are most effective before the plants go to seed.
- Revisit all sites annually for 5 years.



More information:

<https://vtinvasives.org/news-events/news/spotlight-common-buckthorn>

<https://vtinvasives.org/invasive/buckthorn-glossy>

Tell Us:

- Was this information helpful? Need more? Email LaurelACopeland@gmail.com or LesleyPollitt@gmail.com or call Laurel at (802) 368-2439.