

# Invasive Species Alert

## Glossy Buckthorn

(*Rhamnus frangula* or *Frangula alnus*)

\*Established in Michigan\*

### Identification:

- Small tree or shrub – can reach 18 feet tall
- Leaves are simple, alternate, shiny, and un-toothed
- Flowers are tiny, contain 5 greenish-white petals, and are clustered at the base of leaves (late May-September bloom)
- The plant does not have thorns
- Pea-sized fruits ripen from green to red to dark purple (June-September)
- Distinctive orange inner bark



Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org

**Habitat:** While glossy buckthorn can tolerate shade, it prefers sunlight in moist soils. Often found in wetlands like prairie fens, as well as along fence rows, roadsides, open woods, and in pastures.



William Fountain, University of Kentucky, Bugwood.org

**Native Range:** Europe and Asia

**U. S. Distribution:** Northeast through the Midwest

**Local Concern:** This invasive shrub is a threat to native plants in prairie fens and other ecologically important wetland communities. It is a host for alfalfa mosaic virus and crown fungus, and may be a possible host for the soybean aphid.

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