

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 five 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.



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.

NATIVE RANGE: Europe and Asia.

U. S. DISTRIBUTION: Northeast through the Midwest.



MICHIGAN DISTRIBUTION: Widespread and established in Michigan.

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.

REPORT THIS SPECIES: Visit [MISIN.MSU.edu](https://www.misin.msu.edu) or download the MISIN smartphone app and report it from your phone.

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