

CENTRAL JERSEY INVASIVE SPECIES STRIKE TEAM

Invasive Plant Fact Sheet

Glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*, *Rhamnus frangula*)

Also called: European alder buckthorn



Family name: Buckthorn family (Rhamnaceae)

Native range: Europe

General: Small deciduous tree or shrub reaching 20 feet. The young branches are covered in short, soft hairs.

Leaves: Alternate, untoothed, oblong to oval-shaped. 1 to 2.5 inches long. Dark green with short hairs below and shiny above. Turning greenish-yellow to yellow in the fall and persisting.

Flowers: Inconspicuous with 5 green-white petals borne in small clusters in the leaf axils. Appearing from May through June.

Fruit: Round, single-seeded fruits change from red to black. 0.25 inches across. Flowers, partially ripe and ripe fruits may appear on the tree at the same time. Ripening July through August.

Look-alikes: Common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*) is also an invasive European tree. It is *highly threatening* to natural plant communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.



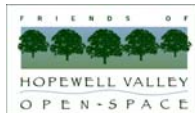
Habitat: Forests, fields, thickets, roadsides. Especially aggressive in wet soils.

Threats to native habitats: The fast growing glossy buckthorn can form large, dense stands thickets that displace native plants and prevent successional growth of native trees and shrubs.

NJ Status: Glossy buckthorn is uncommon but spreading rapidly. It is *highly threatening* to natural plant communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

Commercial Availability: Glossy buckthorn is planted in landscaping and gardens.

Sources: Forestry Images: Forest Health, Natural Resources & Silviculture Images: <http://www.forestryimages.org>
<http://nbii-nin.ciesin.columbia.edu/ipane/icat/browse.do?specield=21>
Rhoads, A.F. and T. Block. 2007. Plants of Pennsylvania. 2nd ed. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, PA. p. 655.



Central Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team (CJISST) is a regional cooperative effort to detect, map, and manage emerging populations of invasive species. This initiative is a partnership of state, county, and municipal agencies, conservation groups, and private citizens. To learn more, please contact us: **Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space**, (609) 730-1560, www.fohvos.org or **Upper Raritan Watershed Association**, (908) 234-1852, www.urwa.org.

