

HOW TO REPORT

Reporting suspect and/or woody invasive species is very important! Monitoring and reporting is an important part of controlling invasive species in Montana. If woody invasive species are not controlled, they can increase habitat loss, damage riparian areas, and are extremely costly to remove.

Suspected invasive species can be reported at [inaturalist.org](https://www.inaturalist.org) online or in the mobile app.

MANAGEMENT RESOURCES

For additional support and information on Montana woody invasives, please contact the following management resources:

- Your local extension office
- Your local weed district

Common Buckthorn Leaves. Photo Credit: Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood

WOODY INVASIVES WORKING GROUP

Woody invasive plant management was identified as a key recommendation in the Yellowstone River Cumulative Effects Analysis report. Since then, a Woody Invasives Working Group (comprised of land management agencies & NGOs) formed to create a management plan that would encompass all Montana watersheds.

CONTACT DETAILS

Montana Department of Agriculture
agrweeds@mt.gov | (406) 444-3144

agr.mt.gov/Noxious-Weeds



WOODY INVASIVE SPECIES IN MONTANA

HOW TO IDENTIFY & REPORT

Saltcedar along the Yellowstone River near Billings, MT. Photo Credit: USDA-NRCS-MT

COMMON BUCKTHORN

Rhamnus cathartica

IDENTIFICATION

- Large shrubs or small trees (6-20ft tall) that have deciduous leaves, remain green long into the fall compared to native species
- Has both alternate and opposite to sub-opposite leaves and buds
- Leaves have 3-6 pairs of veins that arc from the mid-vein towards the pointed leaf tip
- Green-yellow flowers with 4 sepals and petals



BUCKTHORN NATIVE LOOKALIKES



Alderleaf Buckthorn

Common Chokecherry

RUSSIAN OLIVE

Elaeagnus angustifolia

IDENTIFICATION

- Tall shrubs or small trees (up to 26ft tall) with branches that are orange-brown in color with white-mealy hairs (trichomes)
- Leaves are alternately arranged, narrowly lanceolate, white-mealy blades, and silvery undersides
- Branches have alternating thorns
- Olive-like fruits are silvery-green and dry



RUSSIAN OLIVE NATIVE LOOKALIKES



American Silverberry

Silver Buffaloberry

Canada Buffaloberry

SALT CEDAR

Tamarix chinensis, T. ramosissima, & hybrids

IDENTIFICATION

- Wispy, shrubby growth form (3-17ft tall) that often occurs in riparian areas
- Multi-stemmed growth with red-brown bark
- Deciduous leaves that are very small, grey-green, and sit closely to branches
- Short clusters (racemes) of tiny pink flowers that can cover the shrub during the growing season



SALT CEDAR NATIVE LOOKALIKES



Rocky Mountain Juniper

Western Redcedar