

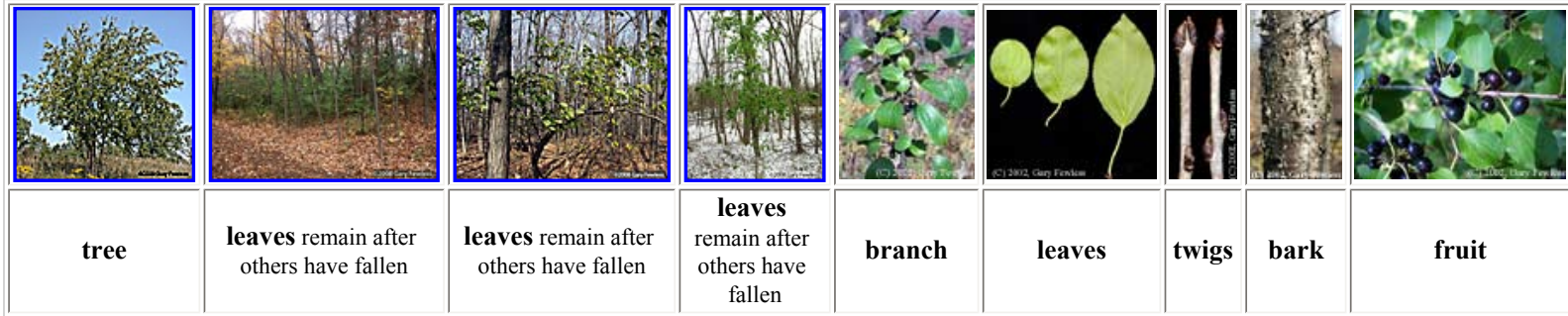


## Invasive Plants of Wisconsin

*Rhamnus cathartica* L.

**European buckthorn**

Family: Rhamnaceae



European Buckthorn can be identified by the [small thorns born at the tips of most branches](#). Leaves are toothed and may be arranged both alternately and oppositely on the same branch. The fruits, similar in structure to a cherry (but containing more than one seed), are very dark colored and numerous. Leaves remain green and firmly attached after most other species have lost their leaves (the related *Rhamnus frangula* is similar in this regard).

European Buckthorn is a troublesome invasive exotic species. The fruits are eagerly eaten by birds and the seeds are spread widely. When the trees reach maturity they produce abundant fruit and within a few years there are commonly thousands of seedlings around the base of each mature tree. Cut stumps sprout vigorously and usually require treatment with an herbicide, if they are too large to pull out.

See other web sites for methods of control, for example:

[The nature conservancy](#) web site

or

[Wisconsin DNR](#)



known Wisconsin  
distribution

[Acknowledgments](#)

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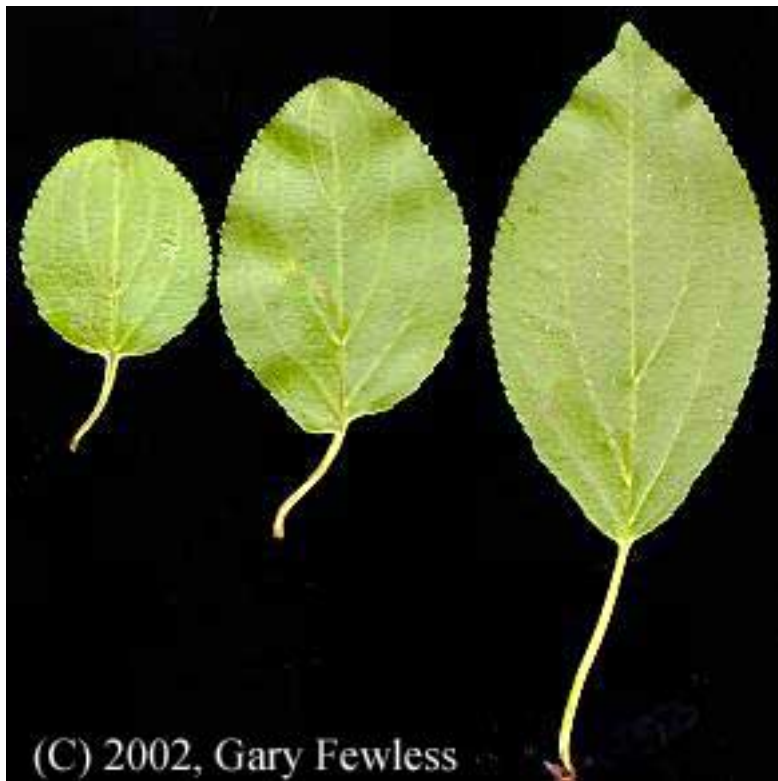




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# Trees of Wisconsin

## Herbarium

**Cofrin Center for Biodiversity**

UNIVERSITY of WISCONSIN-GREEN BAY

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### Acknowledgements

All images and text are ©2002 - 2007 Gary Fewless. The Wisconsin distribution maps were produced by the UW-Madison Herbarium and are based on the voucher specimens held by the following herbaria: UW-Madison (WIS), UW-Green Bay, UW-Stevens Point, and UW-Superior; Milwaukee Public Museum (MIL); Fort McCoy; Illinois Natural History Survey; SE Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission; WIS-DNR; Morton Arboretum (MOR); and various other Wisconsin collections. The distributions shown are based primarily on locations for which a herbarium voucher is known. It is likely that current and future botanists will improve the record of distributions.