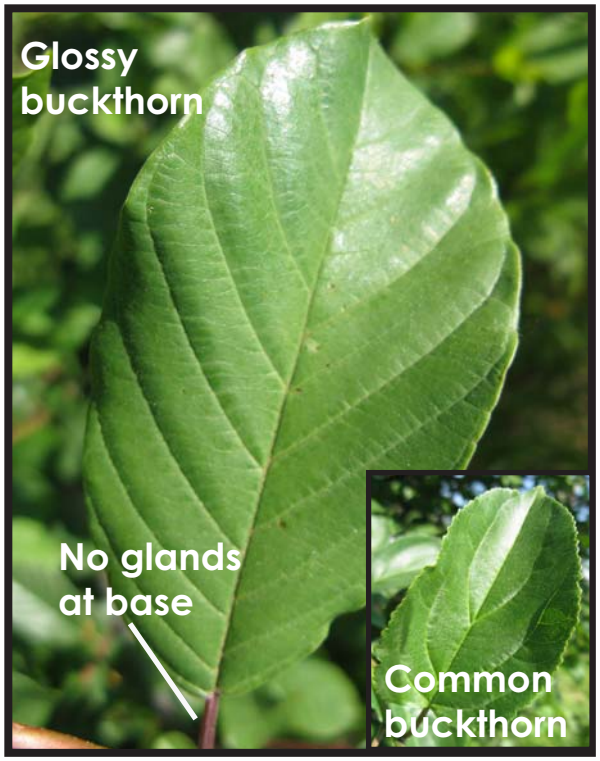
Glossy buckthorn
Frangula alnus

Minnesota C-Value: 0
Wetland Indicator Status: FAC+
Non-native Invasive



Leaves: Mostly alternate. Leaf edges wavy, but lacking distinct teeth. Glossy sheen to both sides. Leaf comes to an acute point at the tip.

Stems: Can reach 20 ft or more in height. Bark is gray to light brown with light colored lenticels. Can be single or multi- stemmed.

Flowers and fruit: Female plants produce bunches of reddish berries that turn black as they mature. Flowers greenish-white with 5 petals.

Plant communities: Aggressive species found in wetter, nutrient poor or disturbed sites such as bogs, swamps, fens, etc. Also can colonize upland wooded areas.

Comments: Previously classified as *Rhamnus frangula*. Common buckthorn and choke cherry look similar to this species. Choke cherry trees have glands at the base of each leaf. Common buckthorn has serrated leaf margins and has a terminal thorn at the end of each twig.