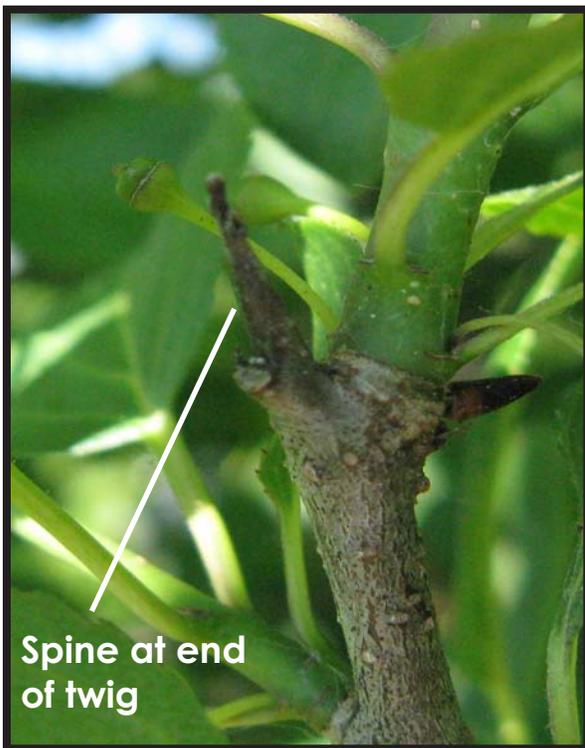


# Common buckthorn

*Rhamnus cathartica*

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



**Leaves:** Opposite leaves, sometimes alternate. Lateral venation (veins run parallel to leaf edge as they run towards the tip of the leaf). Fine and rounded serration at leaf edges.

**Stems:** 12-20 ft in height. Twigs end in sharp spines, often accompanied by a pair of buds that have a “deer hoof” appearance. Trunks have conspicuous lenticels.

**Flowers and fruit:** Female plants produce dark berries, usually with 4 seeds per berry.

**Plant communities:** Aggressive invasive species found in disturbed sites nearly everywhere, except where there is standing water.

**Comments:** Glossy buckthorn and choke cherry may appear similar. Glossy buckthorn has smooth leaf margins and different leaf venation. Cherry leaves have glands at the base of each leaf. Buckthorn is also the first to leaf-out in spring and last to drop its leaves in the fall, making late season identification easier.