

# Identification



Walther Otto Müller

- Shrub or small tree which can reach a height of up to nine meters
- Brownish-grey bark with small whitish spots
- Shiny green leaves which alternate on the branches
- Small whitish flowers
- Inedible fruits, initially green, but which turn red, then black when mature (July to September)



## JOIN THE FIGHT!

Between 2014 and 2016, many volunteers have participated in the control of alder buckthorn at the *Centre d'interprétation de la nature du Lac Boivin* in Granby. Close to eight hectares have been controlled, but the struggle is not over!

You or your group can participate in and contribute to the preservation of this area's biodiversity.

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# ALDER BUCKTHORN

A plant that is devastating to our forests

## Practical eradication guide



Is it growing on your property?

# Problems

The alder buckthorn is an exotic, invasive species native to Europe. It was first introduced to the United States as an ornamental plant during the 19th century.

Now found in many parts of Quebec, the alder buckthorn produces many seeds which are dispersed by birds. This is why it continues to invade new areas. It prefers humid environments, forests as well as disturbed lands.

The alder buckthorn grows very quickly and forms dense thickets. It uses the water and nutrients in the soil and blocks sunlight, thus giving indigenous species little chance to grow.



The alder buckthorn threatens the balance of the ecosystem by reducing biodiversity. This is why it must be controlled.

# Methods of Control

The most efficient mechanical method of control involves digging the plant from the soil with as much of its roots as possible.

- **Small Plants (1 cm and less in diameter)**  
They can usually be pulled out by hand. Gardening gloves can make this work easier.
- **Medium-sized Plants (1 to 5 cm in diameter)**  
They are more easily pulled out with a shovel or, better still, with an uprooting tool such as the *Extractigator* which is specifically designed for this type of work.
- **Large Plants (5 cm or more in diameter)**  
The plants that are difficult to uproot can be cut. Later, the stumps will often produce new stems. These stump sprouts must be ripped out or cut several times until the plant dies.

To prevent regrowth, cover the stump with a completely opaque and mechanically strong material. For example, nail an empty tin can over the stump, covering it completely and penetrating the soil around the stump. Keep this stump cover in place for at least a year.

## For Effective Control

- Make it a priority to rip out the largest shrubs, those that produce fruit.
- If possible, take action before the shrubs produce mature fruits in July. Otherwise, try to limit the number of fruits that fall on the ground during uprooting and transport.
- Return to any area that has been cleared to rip out regrowth before it produce fruit.
- In accordance with current regulations, burn all parts of the plant. Otherwise, dispose of them in municipal garbage bins. Do not compost or dispose of them in nature. When in doubt, contact the Fondation SÉTHY for more information.



### References:

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