

INVASIVE BUCKTHORN: for more info go to GoGreenCrystallake.org

The Bottom Line ----- **IT'S BAD**

It's been **illegal** to buy or sell Buckthorn in the State of Illinois since 2004 – so why does **BUCKTHORN** make up **36%** of all trees in McHenry County. Something's wrong with this picture -- and it's more and more becoming **A BIG PROBLEM HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT**.

Realize that **GREEN ISN'T ALWAYS A GOOD THING**.

Buckthorn was introduced to the U.S. in the 1800's as an ornamental. It quickly spread, taking over native plants and disturbing natural ecosystems. Property owners see Buckthorn as **free privacy**. They like the **“look”** and want to keep it **“natural”**-- and commonly, don't want to spend the money or take the time and effort to remove it.

Here's the response to that: **BUCKTHORN** is an **ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARD**, creating **DEAD ZONES**, causing long-lasting damage to the soil and larger ecosystem. Dense thickets shade the ground from sunlight, making regeneration of **Oaks** and other native plants difficult. It doesn't grow large enough to provide the benefits of canopy trees & its **thickets** spread creating an **unnatural monoculture**.

Birds eat the berries, which are not nutritious and cause diarrhea, spreading the seeds to other areas. The shallow roots cause erosion and run-off. Buckthorn pollutes rivers. Chemicals in Buckthorn are toxic to amphibians, causing genetic defects -- preventing eggs from fully developing. Buckthorn leaves are also host to Oat Crown Rust, and is the overwintering plant for Soybean aphids.

TO REMOVE BUCKTHORN & BUSH HONEYSUCKLE:

First, remove the female Buckthorn, fruit bearing plants with dark blue/black berries. These should be burned (or exposed to high heat) to avoid seeds from spreading. Male plants can be ground. The following year watch for re-sprouts. It's a several year process. Small plants can be pulled – **must include the root system**. Small plants can be dug out with a sharp spade or pried with a weed wrench. **Cut** larger plants **four inches above** and **parallel** to the ground, using clippers or loopers, a swan bow, handsaw or chainsaw. The **cambium**, outer edge just inside the bark layer on top of **stump**, is where you apply the **herbicide**, such as **Triclopyr 4E** (*Garlon 4E*) 20%, mixed with basal oil. (An alternative method is to wrap stumps in thick black plastic and leave for extended period.) Plants will quickly re-sprout without any treatment after cutting. Put **dye** in the herbicide to know which stumps have been treated. Best to **treat ASAP** after stump is cut. Take care not to herbicide desirable plants, and wear protective gloves, *as oil based Triclopyr 4E can absorb through the skin*. For stumps, apply herbicide with a brush, or apply directly with spray bottle. Fall and Winter are the best times for stump treatments. (*For foliar applications in the Spring, use Triclopyr 3A, mixed with water and surfactant 3%.*)

For treating Asian Bush Honeysuckle, Matt Evans from the Chicago Botanical Gardens recommends using 50% Glyphosate (RoundUp) mixed with water on freshly cut stumps. Glyphosate should be at least a 20% concentrate for stump treatments. (The Environmental Defenders use Triclopyr 4E to treat both Honeysuckle & Buckthorn.) When it comes to Invasives, used responsibly -- herbicides are our ally – can purchase herbicides locally at Conserv FS in Wauconda. Remember to always follow label directions.