

# Invasive Plant Species

**Help stop the spread!**

## Glossy Buckthorn

*Frangula alnus*

**Family:** Buckthorn Family (Rhamnaceae)

**Other names:** *Rhamnus frangula*, Alder Buckthorn, Black Buckthorn, European Alder Buckthorn

**Origin:** Introduced from Europe as an ornamental shrub

**Growth habit:** A very aggressive and invasive shrub with multiple stems that can grow up to 20 feet tall.

**Leaves:** Alternate, shiny, oval shaped with smooth wavy edges, leaves remain green late into fall.

**Bark:** Gray-brown, spotted.

**Flowers:** White to whitish-green, hang down in small clusters.

**Fruit/seed:** Red berries turn purplish-black when ripe.

**Reproduction:** mainly by seed distributed by birds, sprouts will grow from cut stems

**Habitat:** Tolerates a wide range of habitats from wetlands to woodland edges, old fields, ditches, urban properties and backyards.

**Distribution on PEI:** Mainly in the Charlottetown area



## Why is glossy buckthorn a problem?

- it out-competes native plants for food and water.
- it creates dense shade that eliminates most other plant growth and contributes to erosion problems.
- it has an aggressive growth habit that allows it to form monocultures which degrade wildlife habitat and reduce biodiversity.
- it has no natural controls such as disease or insect pests.

## Victoria Park – What's happening?

We have removed approximately 250 yards (that's about 125 half ton truck loads!) of glossy buckthorn from Victoria Park over the past two summers. There is still a large population of plants growing in the Park. There is also lots of seed present in the soil that will germinate over time regenerating the population.

Continuation of the removal program, monitoring for sprout growth and new plants will help us control this population of glossy buckthorn.

## What can Islanders do?

Don't plant it.

Dig it up – make sure your identification is accurate. Some dogwood leaves look very similar to glossy buckthorn leaves.

Tell your neighbor about it.



**For more information contact:  
The Parks and Recreation Department at 368-1025  
City of Charlottetown  
[www.city.charlottetown.pe.ca](http://www.city.charlottetown.pe.ca)**