

# How Can I Identify Buckthorn



## Leaves

- dark green, glossy, shiny
- 3-4 pairs of upturned veins
- opposite to subopposite in arrangement
- green leaves often remain on tree well into the fall



## Thorns

- short, stout
- replace terminal bud at tips of stems

## Flowers

- present in the spring
- small, yellow-green
- clustered at base of leaves

## Bark

- outer bark = gray
- inner bark = bright yellow



## Fruits

- on female trees only
- green early in season
- turning black later in fall
- contain 2-4 seeds (like a grape)
- may hang on tree until March



Don't confuse buckthorn with trees in the genus *Prunus* (wild cherry, choke cherry)

## Choke cherry

- flowers = pink or white
- thorns = none
- fruit = black, with a single, solid pit