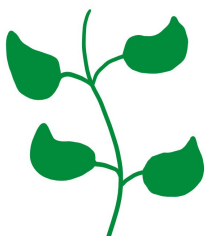


# IDENTIFYING COMMON BUCKTHORN SAPPLINGS

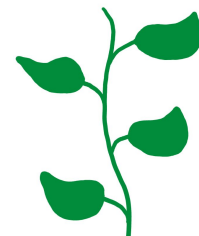
Identifying young plants can be difficult. Use this guide to help distinguish common buckthorn, *Rhamnus cathartica*, from other species. Start by looking closely at the plant in question:

Are the leaves opposite or alternate?



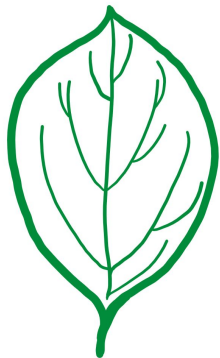
Opposite leaves come off the stem from the same or close to the same point, like a V.

Alternate leaves grow on the stem in a staggered pattern.

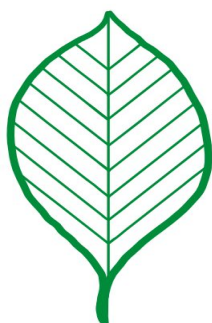


What do the veins, the lines on the leaf, look like?

They curve following the shape of the leaf.



They are straight lines coming from the center of the leaf.

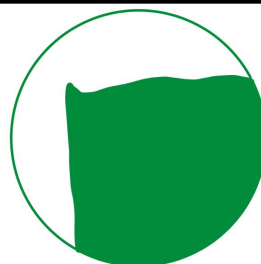


You are likely looking at a different species. If you're not sure about the leaf arrangement, check with the other identification techniques.

This is a plant other than buckthorn, perhaps an ash species.

What does the leaf margin, the edges of the leaf, look like?

It is completely smooth, with no small bumps.



This is a plant other than buckthorn, likely a dogwood.

It has small rounded bumps or teeth.



This is common buckthorn!

