

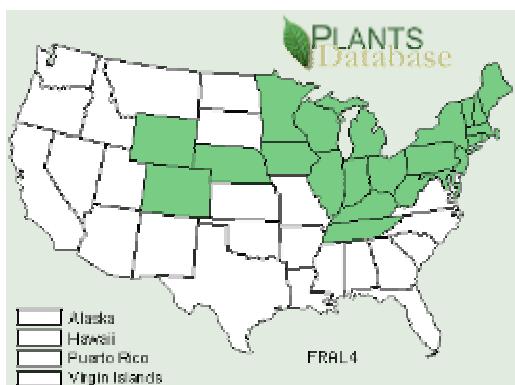
# *Frangula alnus*

Glossy buckthorn      FRAL4      8004  
European alder  
Alder buckthorn



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Voucher specimen needed in ND, SD, KS, and MO.

## *Frangula alnus*

Glossy buckthorn      FRAL4      8004  
European alder  
Alder buckthorn

**Form:** Understory shrub/tree to 7 m; often with multiple stems at the base.

**Leaves:** With several pectinate lateral veins; margins mostly entire (sometimes with some marginal glands); mostly alternate, 2.5-7.5 cm usually more than half as wide as long. Leaves stay green well into autumn.

**Flowers/fruit:** Flowers bisexual, unlike most relatives; sepals, petals, and stamens 5; pale yellow. Fruit red to black with 2-3 seeds.

**Habitat:** Wetlands including acidic bogs, calcareous fens, and sedge meadows. Also does well in upland habitats. It can tolerate full sun to deep shade.

**Other distinguishing features/notes:** Bark is brown with silvery, slightly “corky”, lenticels that make it resemble native cherries or plums. Cutting a branch will expose yellow sapwood and orange heartwood. Similar to Carolina buckthorn (*Rhamnus caroliniana*) except it doesn’t get as tall (*R. caroliniana* can get as tall as 12 m).

Winter/early spring ID tip: Buds are naked (*Rhamnus cathartica* and *R. alnifolia* have scaly buds). Carolina buckthorn also had naked buds, but remember this species is bigger.

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