

Russian Olive



Russian olive is a thorny shrub or small tree growing growing to 35 ft. in height. Russian olive is easily recognized by the silvery, scaly underside of the leaves and slightly thorny stems. Leaves are alternate and 1/2 in. wide. Small, yellowish flowers or hard green to yellow fruits are abundant and occur on clusters near the stems in the spring and summer. Russian olive invades old fields, woodland edges, and other disturbed areas. It can form a dense shrub layer which displaces native species and closes open areas. It has been widely planted for wildlife habitat, mine reclamation, and shelterbelts.



The District policy regarding Russian Olive control is to help those that want to control it. At this time the District Board has no intention of forcing control on anyone, but, do encourage alternative plantings.