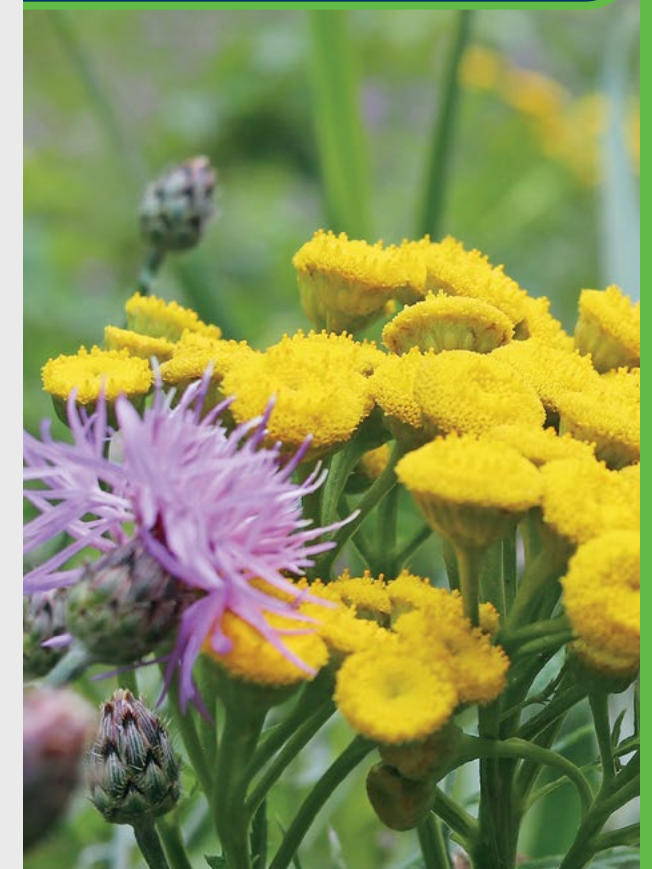


# INVASIVE PLANT GUIDE

*An introduction to terrestrial invasive plant identification*



Spotted knapweed and common tansy



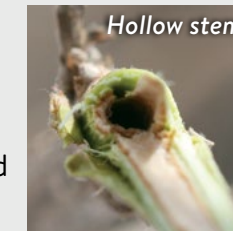
## Non-native bush honeysuckles

Tatarian honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*), Morrow's honeysuckle (*L. morrowii*), Bell's honeysuckle (*L. x bella*), and Amur honeysuckle (*L. maackii*)

There are four species of non-native bush honeysuckle of concern to Minnesota. They can shade out native species. They all are upright deciduous shrubs that grow 5-20 feet tall.

### Leaves and Stem

The leaves of all four species are located in pairs opposite one another. Leaves are simple, oval, and untoothed. Leaf tip shape and leaf hairiness vary among species. The stems older than 2 years are hollow as opposed to native honeysuckles which have solid stems.



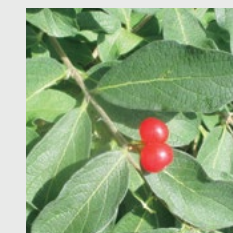
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### Flowers and Fruit

Flowers are tubular and bloom in May and June. Most often flowers are pink, occasionally white or red. Fruits are smooth red or orange-yellow berries, situated in pairs.



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## Glossy buckthorn

*Frangula alnus*

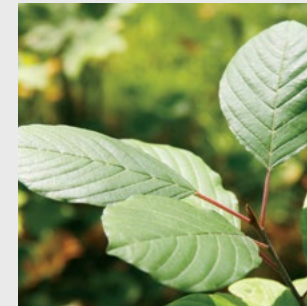
Glossy buckthorn is a tall understory shrub or small tree that grows up to 20 feet high. It has similar impacts on native ecosystems as common buckthorn, but tends to grow in wetter areas.

### Leaves and Stem

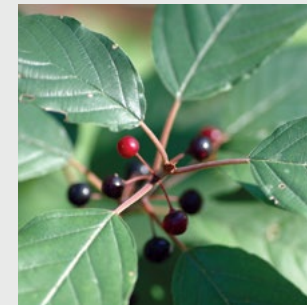
Leaves are oval with smooth edges. Each leaf has 8-9 pairs of veins. The smooth, dark glossy leaves stay green and remain on the tree late into fall.

### Flowers and Fruit

Small, yellow-green flowers with four petals are produced in May. Clusters of black ¼ inch fruit ripen on female plants in August and September.



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## Common buckthorn

*Rhamnus cathartica*



Common buckthorn is a tall understory shrub or small tree that grows up to 20 feet high. Common buckthorn can crowd out native plants and displace the native shrubs and small trees in the mid-layer of the forest where many species of birds nest.

### Leaves and Stem

Leaves are oval with finely toothed edges. Each leaf has 3-5 pairs of curved leaf veins. Leaves stay dark green and on the tree late into fall. Leaves are generally alternate (come off the stem one at a time at each leaf node), but sometimes two leaves are opposite one another.

### Flowers and Fruit

Small, yellow-green flowers with four petals are produced in May. Clusters of black ¼ inch fruit ripen on female plants in August and September.

Photos provided by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources unless otherwise credited.

## Wild parsnip

*Pastinaca sativa*

Wild parsnip spends one or more years as a clump of low-lying leaves with no vertical stem. Then, it grows a flowering stalk up to four feet tall, blooms, and dies. Wild parsnip can form dense cover in open places such as roadsides, pastures, and disturbed areas.



**Caution:** Avoid skin contact with the toxic sap of this plant by wearing gloves, long sleeves and long pants. When the juice of wild parsnip comes in contact with skin in the presence of sunlight, it can cause a chemical burn with blistering of the skin.

### Leaves and Stem

Alternate leaves are made up of 5-15 egg-shaped leaflets. Leaflets have variously-sized lobes and coarse teeth along their edges. The stems are stout and hollow, with distinctive grooves.



### Flowers

Second-year plants produce a stalk topped with flat-topped broad flower clusters 2-6 inches wide, with numerous five-petaled yellow flowers. Wild parsnip blooms from June to late summer.

