

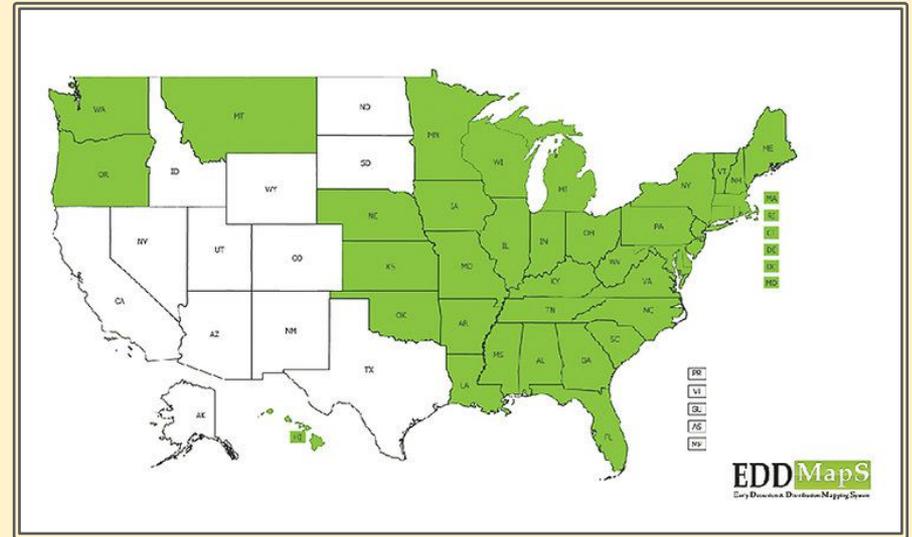
# Autumn Olive

A close-up photograph of Autumn Olive branches. The image shows several clusters of small, round, reddish-brown berries hanging from thin, woody stems. The berries have a slightly textured surface and are surrounded by vibrant green, elongated leaves with prominent veins. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting a dense foliage. The lighting is bright, highlighting the colors of the berries and leaves.

*Photo: University of New Hampshire*

# How It Got Here

- ❖ Origin: East Asia
- ❖ Introduced to the U.S. in 1830 as an ornamental plant
- ❖ It was planted throughout North America in the 1960s and 70s to provide shelter and food to wildlife
- ❖ It is drought tolerant and can thrive in dry and low nutrient soils because it is able to create its own usable for of nitrogen, so it was often used to restore deforested or degraded lands, as windbreaks and to combat erosion.



DISTRIBUTION OF AUTUMN OLIVE IN THE UNITED STATES (EDDMAPS 2018)

# Why is it a problem?



*Bill Johnson*

- Autumn Olive puts its leaves out early and retains them late into the fall, shading other native plants and preventing growth
- It has an abundance of berries, lasting into winter, that are readily available source of nutrients to birds and mammals, who scatter the seeds and help it spread quickly.

# How to Identify Autumn Olive



Smooth-edged elliptical leaves that are dark green on top and covered with silver scales on the bottom



Trumpet shaped, pale yellow flowers in the Spring and Summer that cluster in groups of 4-6



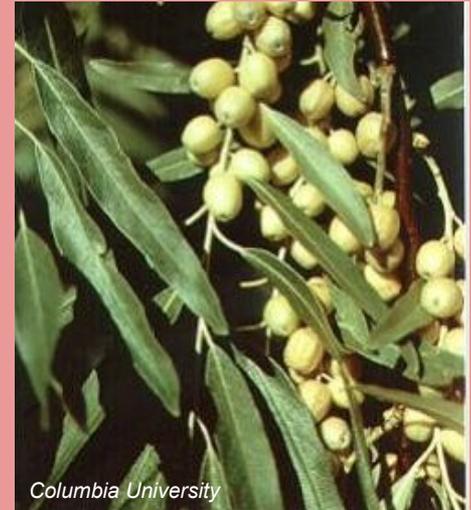
Red berries from August to October clustered and flecked with silver scales

# Similar Species:

Russian Olive

Young plants have leaves that appear silver on both sides as opposed to only the bottom. Leaves are narrower and longer as well.

Mature plants produce berries that are tan to yellow rather than the red berries that Autumn Olive produces.



## Young Plants



Young plants with delicate roots can be pulled out of the ground. Once pulled, seedlings should be left to dry out.



More established shrubs should be dug out of the ground. If this isn't possible, the bush can be cut at the root crown and then mulched or covered with tarp to prevent further growth. If the bush is cut to a stump this will only stimulate new, denser growth without the application of herbicides.

## Mature Plants

\* Note: If Autumn olive is removed when berries are present it should be burned to avoid establishment of new plants. Alternatively, the berries can be collected, boiled and turned into a delicious jam!

# Sources

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