

Native Trees and Shrubs for Buckthorn Replacement



Buckthorn is an invasive shrub that takes over the woodland understory. It forms walls along woodland edges and spreads into yards. The impact is a landscape with limited aesthetic appeal or habitat value.

Resources to help replace buckthorn

- Study our [online buckthorn learning module](#) to learn the best strategies and timing for success.
- Do some research to find the best native trees or shrubs for planting in your control area. Ideally, you can find:
 - Plants with characteristics that appeal to you, such as flowering color and time, seasonal foliage color, fruiting or pollinator and wildlife benefits.
 - Plants that will thrive where you hope to plant – each species has particular needs for sunlight, moisture and soil conditions.
- These books and websites may be helpful during your research:
 - “Trees and Shrubs of Minnesota” by Welby R. Smith (available through the Hennepin County Library system)
 - [Minnesota’s Native Trees \(DNR\)](#)
 - [Morton Arboretum](#)
 - [Missouri Botanical Garden](#)

Native trees and shrubs for replacement

- Some trees and shrubs (marked here with ^T) form patches or thickets over time. That creates good wildlife habitat and is useful for hedging. But you will need to watch for volunteer sprouts that pop up where you don’t want them.
- Species that do well in moist soils are marked with ^M.
- Conifer species (sometimes called evergreens) are marked with ^C.

Canopy trees

Shade trees are tall and often broad, forming the canopy in woodlands. In yards, these species are an important source of cooling shade.

Sugar Maple (*Acer saccharum*)

Bitternut Hickory (*Carya cordiformis*)

Black Cherry (*Prunus serotina*)

Quaking Aspen (*Populus tremuloides*)

Bigtooth Aspen (*Populus grandidentata*)

White Oak (*Quercus alba*)

Bur Oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*)

Northern Red Oak (*Quercus rubra*)

American Basswood (*Tilia americana*)

Balsam Fir^C (*Abies balsamifera*)

Northern White Cedar^C (*Thuja occidentalis*)

Understory trees

The understory includes trees that are adapted to grow in full or part shade, below larger trees.

Downy Serviceberry (*Amelanchier arborea*)

Allegheny Serviceberry (*Amelanchier laevis*)

Blue Beech (*Carpinus carolineana*)

Pagoda Dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*)

Hawthorn (*Crataegus spp.*)

Ironwood (*Ostrya virginiana*)

American Wild Plum (*Prunus americana*)

Choke Cherry^T (*Prunus virginiana*)

Pin Cherry^T (*Prunus pennsylvanica*)

Shrubs

Shrubs may grow in the understory of a woodland, along edges between wooded and open spaces, or in full sun. They tend to be multi-stemmed or bushy and may have branches down to ground level.

Speckled Alder^M (*Alnus rugosa*)

Saskatoon Serviceberry^T (*Amelanchier alnifolia*)

Roundleaf Serviceberry^T (*Amelanchier sanguinea*)

Pagoda Dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*)

Silky Dogwood (*Cornus amomum*)

Red-osier Dogwood^M (*Cornus sericea*)

Gray Dogwood^T (*Cornus racemosa*)

American Hazel (*Corylus americana*)

Bush Honeysuckle (*Diervilla lonicera*)

Eastern Wahoo^T (*Euonymus atropurpureus*)

Witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)

Winterberry^M (*Ilex verticillata*)

Common Ninebark (*Physocarpus opulifolius*)

Choke Cherry^T (*Prunus virginiana*)

Smooth Sumac^T (*Rhus glabra*)

Staghorn Sumac^T (*Rhus typhina*)

Prickly Gooseberry (*Ribes cynsobati*)

Meadow Wild Rose (*Rosa blanda*)

Pussy Willow^M (*Salix discolor*)

American Elderberry^M (*Sambucus canadensis*)

Red-berried Elder (*Sambucus pubens*)

Bladdernut^T (*Stapylea trifolia*)

Meadowsweet^M (*Spiraea alba*)

Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos albus*)

Nannyberry^T (*Viburnum lentago*)

Downy Arrowwood (*Viburnum rafinesquianum*)

American High-bush Cranberry^M (*Viburnum trilobum*)