

# Autumn olive

*Elaeagnus umbellata*



## HABITAT:

- Spreads in disturbed areas such as roadsides, pastures, fields; thrives in poor soils
- Does not grow well in densely wooded areas

## ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS:

- Creates dense shade which suppresses other native plants and will re-sprout vigorously after cutting or burning



## Plant at a Glance:

1. **Leaf:** alternate, dark green, covered with silver-white scales
2. **Flower:** small, light yellow, appear along the stems after the leaves have sprouted early in growing season
3. **Fruit:** reddish pink, very fleshy

## TIMING:

- Flowers in mid to late spring
- Fruits September through November

## MANAGEMENT:

- Hand pull seedlings and sprouts in early spring when soil is moist for full removal of root system
- For larger plants, cutting alone may result in thicker growth. A glyphosate herbicide, such as Roundup, can be applied (follow label directions when applying any herbicide)

## Native Alternative:

Bayberry, *Myrica pensylvanica*

- Semi evergreen to deciduous shrub
- Blooms in early spring
- **Habitat:** woodlands, meadows
- **Benefits and Uses:** shrub border, hedge, screening, grows in difficult growing sites
- **Growing tips:** full sun or partial shade with dry, sandy, infertile soils or humus-rich, acidic soils



**Photos:** Baskauf, Steven Jr. *Elaeagnus umbellata*. N.d. *Bioimages*. Web. 7 Sept. 2012. Cook, Will. *Autumn olive*. 2009. Duke University, Chapel Hill, NC. Web. 7 Sept. 2012. *It's red, can I eat it?* N.d. Ohio. *Field biology in southeastern Ohio*. Web. 9 Aug. 2012.