

# HOW TO CONTROL BUCKTHORN

More than one method may be appropriate to control buckthorn on your property.

 Look for this icon for methods best for residential use.



## Be Berry-Aware

Have a lot of buckthorn? Focus first on controlling fruit-bearing shrubs to reduce the seed load.

## Non-Chemical Control Methods

 **Cut & Cover**



**Best for:** Buckthorn 2 inches or greater in diameter.

**Timing:** Any time

**Notes:** Cut stem near soil surface then cover with empty tin can or thick, black plastic bag (e. g. Buckthorn Baggie) to block sunlight.

 **Pull**



**Best for:** For shrubs less than 3/8 inch diameter, pull by hand. For larger shrubs, use a weed wrench tool.

**Timing:** Spring to fall. Easiest when soil is moist.

**Notes:** Minimize soil disturbance by tapping soil and native plants back in place after pulling.

**Mow**



**Best for:** Thick stands of small buckthorn in a large habitat restoration area. *Not appropriate for suburban yards.*

**Timing:** Winter (frozen soil)

**Notes:** Repeated forest mowing weakens buckthorn and allows native plants to take hold.

**Graze**



**Best for:** Habitat restoration in large areas such as parks. *Not appropriate for suburban yards.* Your city may prohibit or require a permit.

**Timing:** Spring to fall

**Notes:** Repeated grazing cycles weaken buckthorn and to knock it back and allow native plants to take hold.

## Chemical Control Methods

 **Cut Stump & Treat**



**Best for:** Any size

**Timing:** Best time is fall; avoid spring.

**Notes:** Treat stump immediately after cutting (don't wait more than 2 hours). No need to treat center of stump.

**Apply herbicide to the outer rings of a stump.** This is where the sapwood is located, which will transport the herbicide down to kill the roots.



 **Spray Leaves (Foliar)**



**Best for:** Small buckthorn

**Timing:** Best time is fall; avoid spring.

**Notes:** To avoid herbicide drift, spray plants that are less than 3 feet tall.

**Basal Bark Application**



**Best for:** Buckthorn less than 3 inches in diameter.

**Timing:** Winter

**Notes:** Use carrier oil to penetrate bark. Apply directly to bark from root collar to 12 inches above ground.

## Herbicides to control buckthorn

Source: MnDNR

Brand name examples	Active ingredient	Concentration of active ingredient	Use
Ortho Brush-B-Gon	Triclopyr amine	Ready to use/do not dilute	Cut stump
Ferti-Lome Brush Killer & Stump Killer	Triclopyr amine	Ready to use/do not dilute	Cut stump
Garlon 3A, Vastlan	Triclopyr amine	Mix 1 part Garlon 3A with 3 parts water for a 25% solution. For Vastlan, follow label directions.	Cut stump
Garlon 4 Ultra, Element 4	Triclopyr ester	Mix 1 part Garlon 4 with 3 parts basal bark oil to achieve a 25% solution.	Cut stump
Pathfinder II	Triclopyr ester	Cut stump: 25% active ingredient Basal bark: 5% active ingredient	Cut stump or basal bark
Roundup, Accord	Glyphosate	Cut stump: At least 25% active ingredient Foliar: 2% active ingredient	Cut stump or foliar spray



Treating near water? Use an herbicide labeled for aquatic use.

## Always follow label directions!

When selecting a ready-to-use herbicide, look at the label to see if the product has the correct concentration of active ingredient.

Active Ingredient  
 Glyphosate.....25%  
 Other Ingredients....75%  
 TOTAL.....100%

FIND MORE RESOURCES: [rpbcwd.org/buckthorn](http://rpbcwd.org/buckthorn)