

# Weed Alert!

## Italian buckthorn



# Italian buckthorn

(*Rhamnus alaterna*)

**Mature Size** Shoulder



## Description

- Up to 15 ft. evergreen shrub with reddish-brown bark and clustered flowers
- Inconspicuous yellowish-green flower in tight clusters up to 1/3 in.
- Small berry-like fruits up to 1/3 in. turn from green to red, then black or brown with age
- Oval-shaped alternate leaves are leathery, glossy, toothed around edges
- Reproduces mainly by seed but resprouts vigorously when damaged
- Spread by horticulture, wildlife, birds, waterfowl, livestock
- Native to southern Europe, western Asia

**Bloom Period** Feb - Apr

**Habitat** Coastal regions, riparian, grassland, forest margins, plantations, rocky outcrops,



**2-Minute Removal** Dig

**Can be confused with...**  
**California coffeeberry**

(*Frangula californica*)

a native shrub:

- 3-12 ft. tall, leaves paler underneath
- Blooms Jun - Aug



Image credits: Front top: tato grasso, Front center/bottom: Jeantosti at fr.wikipedia, Back: Br. Alfred Brousseau, Saint Mary's College; icons by Tim Hyland

These cards were adapted from a design by National Park Service.