

Background:

Autumn Olive was brought to North America from Western Asia as an ornamental plant. It is an invasive shrub that can now be naturalized in pastures, roadsides, and fallow fields.



Autumn Olive before treatment

Autumn Olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*)

Impact on Native Habitat:

Autumn Olive has nitrogen-fixing root nodules and is able to tolerate infertile soils and disrupt nitrogen cycles of native plant communities. Prolific and rapid growth enables Autumn Olive to out compete native plants for water, light, and nutrients, eventually displacing them entirely and resulting in dense thickets. This species is highly invasive in some habitats and regions. Once established Autumn Olive is extremely difficult to control, and may interfere with tree regeneration.

Identification

Leaves: These upright shrubs can attain a height of up to 30 feet. The leaves size range from 2 - 4 inches long and up to 1.5 inches wide, which are oval or elliptical shape with blunt points being arranged alternately along the stem. Leaf edges are smooth and often wavy with the upper leaf surface being green to gray-green with the undersides being silvery and scaly.



Provided courtesy of Kristy L. Parrish

Stems: This deciduous shrub typically has multiple stems. Twigs and young branches appear silvery or golden brown due to the brown or orange scales that make the stems appear speckled. Branches are often armed with sharp thorn-like branches. The bark on older plants split into a fissured bark pattern.



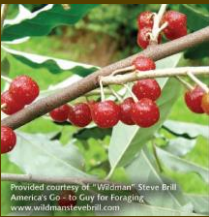
Provided courtesy of Kristy L. Parrish

Flowers: The flowers are fragrant, tubular, 4-petaled appearing near the origin of the leaves individually or in clusters from late April to May. They are creamy white to light yellow.



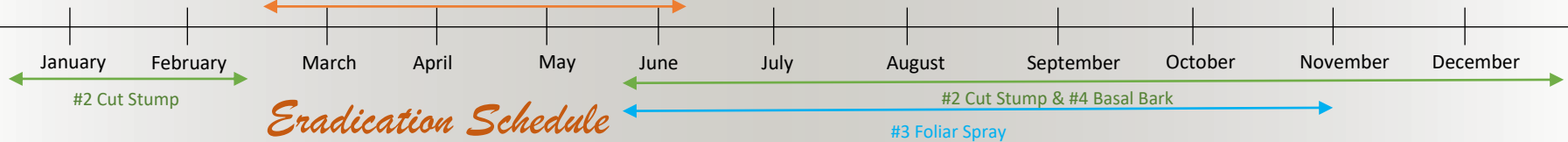
Provided courtesy of "Wildman" Steve Bell America's Co--to Guy for Foraging www.wildmanstevebell.com

Fruits: Rounded, single seeded fruit is borne on short stalks and range from 1/8 to 3/8 inches long and 3/16 inches wide. The fruit, when ripe is a copper-speckled pink/red in the fall



Provided courtesy of "Wildman" Steve Bell America's Co--to Guy for Foraging www.wildmanstevebell.com

Heavy Spring Sap Flow



How to Kill: Eradication

- 1. Hand pulling-** When the plant is small and the soil is moist, hand pulling is an option if the entire plant can be removed, including the roots. This is a very labor intensive method, requiring surveying the same acreage year after year to pull the resprouts.
- 2. Cut Stump method-** This involves cutting the stem(s) off near ground level and applying (painting) a 50% concentration, by volume, of Glyphosate solution with a brush to thoroughly cover the freshly cut area.

- 3. Foliar spray-** This involves spraying the leaves with a solution of properly labeled herbicide plus a non-ionic surfactant, which improves the chemicals ability to adhere and absorb into the plant. This method should be used during the active growing season so care should be taken to avoid spraying non-target species.
- 4. Basal Bark Method-** This consists of spraying a mixture of 25% Triclopyr ester and 75% Basal Oil to the bush's stems to a height of 12 to 15 inches from ground level. Thorough wetting is necessary for good control. (This method is effective but shouldn't be used in the spring while the leaves are emerging and sap is flowing upward in stems.)



Autumn Olive after treatment/eradication