



CHICAGO
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INITIATIVE

Our Trees.
Our Communities.
Our Future.

Invasive Woody Plant Replacement List



Why replace buckthorn and honeysuckle in your yard?

Woody invasive plants, such as common and glossy buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica* and *Rhamnus frangula*) or Eurasian bush-honeysuckles (*Lonicera* spp.), form dense thickets and reproduce aggressively, shading out other plants and disrupting ecosystems in forest preserves and other natural areas. In woodlands, they can completely replace young trees and understory plants, including native wildflowers. Buckthorn also causes long-lasting damage to the soil and wildlife habitat where it grows.

Unfortunately, they are also commonly used in residential landscaping. This guide suggests shrubs that can be planted to replace invasive hedges or screens being removed. For advice on removal, check the Illinois Natural History Survey's guide (www.inhs.illinois.edu/research/vmg/buckthorn/) or hire a professional. To find a native plant nursery, check the Illinois Native Plant Society's list (ill-inps.org/native-plant-nurseries/).

Do I have
invasives in
my yard?

Common name: common buckthorn and glossy buckthorn

Latin name: *Rhamnus cathartica* and *Rhamnus frangula*

Height: 8-25ft

Description: A large shrub or small tree with glossy oval leaves that can easily be recognized in fall, when it remains green after most other leaves have fallen. Buckthorn has berries that are spread by birds. Under the Illinois Exotic Weed Act, buckthorn cannot be sold in Illinois.



From left to right: Manicured buckthorn hedge; close up of buckthorn leaves & fruit

Common name: Eurasian bush-honeysuckles

Latin name: *Lonicera* spp.

Height: 5-20ft

Description: The various species of bush honeysuckles may be difficult to tell apart in the field, but all are upright, shallow-rooted shrubs that leaf out early and remain green late, deplete soil moisture and nutrients, and inhibit the growth of other plants.



Photo credit: John Hagstrom

How to grow a screen or hedge

Freeform screening— Shrub species can be grown without “formal pruning” using their natural structure.

Formal hedges— Start with 18”-24” plants, cutting back to 6” to cause low branching. Cut off half the new growth over the next two years. Start shaping the hedge the third year, making the base broader than the top. Formal hedges must be sheared 2 or more times each year.

Naturalistic hedges— Informal hedges grow best when plants are kept at about 3/4 of their full size. Start with shrubs that will get a little bigger than the size of the hedge you want. Once a year, these hedges need a light overall pruning and a renewal pruning (cutting 1/3 of the older canes off at ground level).

Native, Deciduous Shrubs

How to use this guide

Shrubs are divided into deciduous and evergreen sections, then sorted by common name.




= Deer resistant [±]

Soil moisture range:

Dry

Wet


Photo credit: Natural Landscapes



Alternate leaved dogwood
Latin: *Cornus alternifolia*
Height: 15-25 ft
Sun exposure: full sun to part shade
Landscape uses: screen

to

Photo credit: John Hagstrom



black raspberry
Latin: *Rubus occidentalis*
Height: 3-6ft
Sun exposure: full sun to full shade
Landscape uses: screen

to

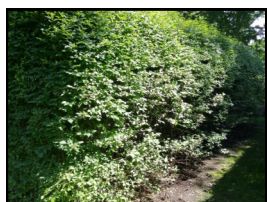
Photo credit: John Hagstrom




American bladdernut 
Latin: *Staphylea trifolia*
Height: 10-15ft
Sun exposure: full sun - full shade
Landscape uses: hedge, screen

to


Photo credit: John Hagstrom



black-haw 
Latin: *Viburnum prunifolium*
Height: 12-15ft
Sun exposure: full sun to part shade
Landscape uses: hedge, screen

to

Photo credit: Melissa Gault



American hazelnut
Latin: *Corylus americana*
Height: 6-10ft
Sun exposure: full sun to part shade
Landscape uses: hedge, screen

to


Photo credit: John Hagstrom




bush-honeysuckle 
Latin: *Diervilla lonicera*
Height: 3-5ft
Sun exposure: full sun to part shade
Landscape uses: hedge, screen

to


Photo credit: John Hagstrom



American hornbeam 
Latin: *Carpinus caroliniana*
Height: 20-30ft*
Sun exposure: full sun to full shade
Landscape uses: screen

to


Photo credit: John Hagstrom



buttonbush
Latin: *Cephalanthus occidentalis*
Height: 6-12ft
Sun exposure: full sun to part shade
Landscape uses: screen

to


Photo credit: John Hagstrom




black chokeberry
Latin: *Aronia melanocarpa*
Height: 3-8ft
Sun exposure: full sun to part shade
Landscape uses: hedge, screen

to

Photo credit: John Hagstrom



clove currant 
Latin: *Ribes odoratum*
Height: 6-8ft
Sun exposure: full sun to part shade
Landscape uses: screen

to

[±] Deer-browsing resistance of any plant species may change due to fluctuations in deer populations, alternative food availability, and environmental factors.

*Although the standard form of this species is a large, single-stemmed tree, it can be trained from a young age to form a hedge at a smaller height. If shrubs are larger than 20 ft at maturity, Do NOT plant under powerlines.

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Soil moisture range:



Photo credit: Melissa Cusick





common ninebark 

Latin: *Physocarpus opulifolius*
Height: 5-10ft
Sun exposure: full sun to part shade
Landscape uses: hedge, screen

1 to 5

Photo credit: plants.usda.gov



nannyberry 

Latin: *Viburnum lentago*
Height: 15-25ft
Sun exposure: full sun to part shade
Landscape uses: screen

1 to 5

Photo credit: John Hagstrom




downy arrowwood 

Latin: *Viburnum rafinesquianum*
Height: 5-8ft
Sun exposure: part shade to full shade
Landscape uses: hedge

1 to 5

Photo credit: Prairie Moon Nursery





prairie rose

Latin: *Rosa setigera*
Height: 10-15ft
Sun exposure: full sun to full shade
Landscape uses: hedge, screen

1 to 5

Photo credit: Mother of a Hubbard



elderberry 

Latin: *Sambucus canadensis*
Height: 5-12 ft
Sun exposure: full sun to part shade
Landscape uses: screen

1 to 5

Photo credit: Melissa Cusick

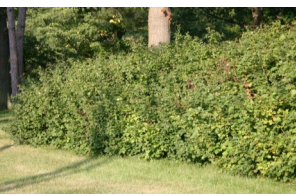



purple chokeberry

Latin: *Aronia prunifolia*
Height: 6-12ft
Sun exposure: full sun to part shade
Landscape uses: hedge, screen

1 to 5

Photo credit: John Hagstrom





fragrant sumac 

Latin: *Rhus aromatica*
Height: 2-5ft
Sun exposure: full sun to part shade
Landscape uses: hedge

1 to 5

Photo credit: John Hagstrom





pussy willow 

Latin: *Salix discolor*
Height: 15-25ft
Sun exposure: full sun
Landscape uses: screen

1 to 5

Photo credit: John Hagstrom




maple-leaved viburnum 

Latin: *Viburnum acerifolium*
Height: 4-6ft
Sun exposure: part shade to full shade
Landscape uses: screen

1 to 5

Photo credit: Jonathan Lands-



red chokeberry 

Latin: *Aronia arbutifolia*
Height: 5-10ft
Sun exposure: full sun to part shade
Landscape uses: hedge, screen

1 to 5

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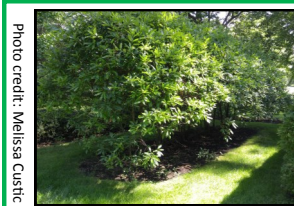


Photo credit: Melissa Cusick

shingle oak

Latin: *Quercus imbricaria*

Height: 50-60ft*

Sun exposure: full sun to part shade

Landscape uses: hedge



Photo credit: John Hagstrom

smooth wild rose

Latin: *Rosa blanda*

Height: 4-5ft

Sun exposure: full sun

Landscape uses: hedge, screen

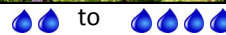


Photo credit: John Hagstrom

shrubby cinquefoil, potentilla

Latin: *Potentilla fruticosa*

Height: 1-4ft

Sun exposure: full sun to part shade

Landscape uses: hedge



Photo credit: John Hagstrom

spicebush

Latin: *Lindera benzoin*

Height: 6-12ft

Sun exposure: full sun to part shade

Landscape uses: hedge



Photo credit: mass.gov

smooth arrowwood viburnum

Latin: *Viburnum dentatum*

Height: 6-10ft

Sun exposure: full sun to part shade

Landscape uses: screen



wild plum

Latin: *Prunus americana*

Height: 15-25ft*

Sun exposure: full sun to part shade

Landscape uses: screen



Native, Coniferous Shrubs



Photo credits: Melissa Cusick

eastern arborvitae

Latin: *Thuja occidentalis*

Height: 40-60ft*

Sun exposure: full sun to part shade

Landscape uses: hedge, screen

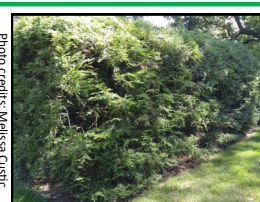


Photo credits: Melissa Cusick

eastern hemlock

Latin: *Tsuga canadensis*

Height: 40-70ft*

Sun exposure: full sun to full shade

Landscape uses: hedge, screen



Learn more about these shrubs with The Morton Arboretum's Tree and Plant Descriptions:

www.mortonarb.org/trees-plants/search-trees/search-all-trees-and-plants

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