

Russian Olive



Russian-olive was imported from Western Asia and Europe in the late 1800's. It has been planted to enhance wildlife habitat and mine reclamation. It is a small, usually thorny shrub or tree that can grow to 35 feet in height. This tree is easily recognized by the silvery egg or lanced-shaped leaves and thorny stems. Russian olive invades old fields, woodland edges, and other disturbed areas. It can form a dense shrub layer which displaces native species.

ECOLOGICAL THREAT

- Outcompetes native vegetation by interfering with natural plant succession and nutrient cycling, and taxes water reserves.
- Can grow on bare, mineral substrates because of nitrogen fixing abilities.
- Provides a plentiful source of edible fruits for birds, but environmentalists find that birds do better in areas of native riparian vegetation.

Suggested sites: www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/elan1.htm

www.columbia.edu/itc/cerc/danoff-burg/invasion_bio/inv_spp_summ/Elaeagnus_angustifolia.htm

