

# Invasive Species of Truckee Meadows

## Russian Olive *Elaeagnus angustifolia*



### Identification

Russian Olive is a large deciduous shrub found in riparian zones. Leaves are ellipitical, dull gray-green in color and are alternately arranged on thorny branches. From May-June, fragrant yellow flowers and berries turn red when mature in August-October.



### Plant These Native Alternatives:



Silver buffaloberry  
(shepherdia argentea)



Littleleaf mountain  
mahogany  
(Cercocarpus intricatus)



Pygmy peashrub  
(Caragana pygmaea)



Fourwing saltbush  
(Atriplex canescens)

Visit the National Wildlife Federation "Native Plant Finder" online to pick the best native species for your garden!

For more information and resources, check out this link:



### How are they Introduced?

Initial introduction of Russian Olive in the U.S. was purposely done for landscaping and revegetation of disturbed areas. Once this shrub escaped cultivation, it naturalized in 17 western states and is most abundant in riparian zones of the Great Basin Desert and the Great Plains.

The establishment of Russian olive in the U.S. has been so successful due to the resistance of a high variety of water, soil, and temperature conditions, nitrogen fixation and seed-dispersal by local birds.

### Management

Simply pruning the plant has no effect on the Russian olive due to their production of root crown shoots. Russian olive is also fire-resistant, but a combination of burning with herbicide spraying has shown to be the most effective management method since biological control is difficult to successfully achieve.

