



# Native Shrubs to Plant after Buckthorn Removal

## *Mother Nature hates a vacuum.*

When buckthorn is removed, she can't wait to put something back in to start growing—even if the only vegetation “lying in wait” to fill the void are other invasive species or more buckthorn (buckthorn seed can remain viable in the soil for up to six years).

So, whenever buckthorn is removed, it should promptly be replaced. One bonus (there are many) of replacing buckthorn with native shrubs is that natives, unlike buckthorn, offer important wildlife nutrition.

Although birds will eat buckthorn berries, they offer poor nutrition. Buckthorn berries are low in protein, high in carbohydrates, and can act as a laxative. While the native shrubs listed below behave less aggressively than buckthorn, they tend to share many of the characteristics people desire from buckthorn screening: a dense growth pattern and/or the ability to tolerate some shade.

Inland Serviceberry (*Amelanchier interior*)  
Black Chokeberry (*Aronia melanocarpa*)  
American Hornbeam (*Carpinus caroliniana*)  
Pagoda Dogwood (*Cornus alternifolia*)  
Gray Dogwood (*Cornus racemosa*)  
Round-leaf Dogwood (*Cornus rugosa*)  
American Hazelnut (*Corylus americana*)  
Dwarf Bush Honeysuckle (*Diervilla lonicera*)  
Eastern Wahoo (*Euonymus atropurpureus*)  
Witch Hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*)  
Chokecherry (*Prunus virginiana*)  
Smooth Sumac (*Rhus glabra*)  
Missouri Gooseberry (*Ribes missouriensis*)  
American Elderberry (*Sambucus canadensis*)  
American Bladdernut (*Staphylea trifolia*)  
Snowberry (*Symphoricarpos alba*)  
Nannyberry (*Viburnum lentago*)  
Blackhaw Viburnum (*Viburnum prunifolium*)  
Downy Arrowwood (*Viburnum rafinesquianum*)  
Highbush Cranberry (*Viburnum trilobum*)



Photo by Heather Holm