



Russian Olive

Elaeagnus angustifolia

- Woody Perennial
- Branches are reddish-brown with thorns on them
- Silvery, olive –shaped fruit
- Thrives in waterways, pastures, cropland, meadows, and moist open areas
- Spreads by roots and seeds

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Suggested Control Methods for Russian Olive

Key Control Methods

Cut-Stump Method (Most Effective): Cut the tree close to the ground and immediately (within minutes) apply herbicide (glyphosate or triclopyr) to the cambium layer (the ring just inside the bark).

Basal Bark Treatment: Apply herbicide mixed with oil (triclopyr ester) to the lower 12–18 inches of the trunk, completely circling the tree. This works on younger trees with thin bark.

Frill or Girdle Method: Cut through the bark around the trunk with an axe or chainsaw, then apply herbicide into the cut.

Mechanical/Physical Removal: Small seedlings can be hand-pulled or dug up. Larger trees can be removed with heavy machinery (bulldozers), but this often causes high soil disturbance.

Foliar Spraying: Spraying leaves with herbicide is effective for dense, young stands, usually done twice a year.

Grazing: Goats can be used to control seedlings and young saplings in short-term, high-intensity grazing strategies.

Important Considerations

Timing: Treatments are best done in late summer (July–September) or the dormant season.

Persistence: Repeated treatment of re-sprouts is always necessary to achieve 100% control

Follow-up: Replant the area with native species to prevent re-infestation.

Herbicide Selection: Use products safe for aquatic environments if working near water