

BUCKTHORN REMOVAL INSTRUCTIONS

1 - KNOW YOUR BUCKTHORN!

View the picture on our web site at: www.friendsoftheparks.org/MRBR/removal.html

2 - REMOVE SEEDLINGS AND SMALL SHRUBS BY HAND

The roots are not deep, so removing small seedlings and shrubs by hand or using a hoe is fairly easy. Remember to gather the loose seedlings and small shrubs so they do not have a chance to re-root.

3 - CUT LARGE SHRUBS & TREAT OR REMOVE THE STUMPS

For buckthorn shrubs greater than two and one half inches, use a hand saw and cut as close to the ground as possible. Follow **one** of the two options below for the remaining stump:

- a). No chemicals are needed if you **dig** the stump out!
- b). Herbicide (Ortho Brush-B-Gon) - **For safety, it is extremely important to read and carefully follow the label safety directions.** For residents of central Minnesota, the herbicide stump treatment is most successful when used from August through January (weather permitting see # 2 below).
 - 1). Use Ortho Brush-B-Gon (8% Triclopyr) **DO NOT DILUTE!**
 - 2). Purchase a hand spray bottle and use it exclusively for this herbicide. *Properly mark the spray bottle before pouring in the herbicide.* When done using return unused portion to the original container. PLEASE NOTE! Do not cut the shrub if rain is predicted within 4 hours and do not apply if the temperature is consistently below freezing.

4 - DISPOSAL OF BRANCHES

Unfortunately, there are very few options for disposal of the shrubs - have your garbage hauler pick them up or burn them. Contact your refuse hauler and ask about the procedure for woody brush pick-up. Contact the city in which you live and ask about burning permits. Burning is the best way of destroying seeds and ensuring that the buckthorn will not sprout somewhere else.

5 - EDUCATION

Spread the message about buckthorn! Oftentimes, your neighbors may not know that buckthorn is a problem. Education is the first step in understanding the invasiveness of this exotic shrub.

6 - WILL BUCKTHORN COME BACK?

If you follow the steps outlined above, your success rate will be reasonably high. However, because each berry contains 3-4 seeds, seedlings may appear in the area where the stump was removed or treated. Be diligent about checking the area for new seedlings. You can win the battle if you persist with your efforts!

7 - REPLANTING

About two weeks after chemically treating the buckthorn stump, you can safely replant a native shrub in the area around the buckthorn stump. There are several shrub selections suitable for many planting conditions in Minnesota. With careful selection, a homeowner will have a wonderful non-invasive shrub, that will provide a habitat and food source for our feathered friends and in the process, keep our river bluff healthy!

DISCLAIMER: The purpose of these instructions is to provide information.

No product endorsement is intended or implied by the City of Saint Paul. Carefully read all manufacturer's directions prior to using any herbicide. Always use proper equipment and use extreme caution when applying a herbicide.

Discard unused herbicide at a hazardous waste collection facility (call 651-773-4444 for information) or store it safely.

Instructions compiled in cooperation with John Moriarty, Craig Andresen, Cindy Schwie, and the Friends of the Parks and Trails of St. Paul and Ramsey County