

WHY REPLACE BUCKTHORN AND HONEYSUCKLE IN YOUR YARD?

Woody invasive plants, such as common and glossy buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica* and *Rhamnus frangula*) or Eurasian bush-honeysuckles (*Lonicera* spp.), form dense thickets and reproduce aggressively, shading out other plants and disrupting ecosystems in forest preserves and other natural areas. In woodlands, they can completely replace young trees and understory plants, including native wildflowers. Buckthorn also causes long-lasting damage to the soil and wildlife habitat where it grows.

Unfortunately, they are also commonly found in residential landscaping. This guide suggests shrubs that can be planted to replace invasive hedges or screens being removed.

HOW TO GROW A SCREEN OR HEDGE

Freeform screening – Shrub species can be grown without “formal pruning” using their natural structure.

Formal hedges – Start with 18"-24" plants, cutting back to 6" to cause low branching. Cut off half the new growth over the next two years. Start shaping the hedge the third year, making the base broader than the top. Formal hedges must be sheared 2 or more times each year.

Naturalistic hedges – Informal hedges grow best when plants are kept at about ¾ of their full size. Start with shrubs that will get a little bigger than the size of the hedge you want. Once a year, these hedges need a light overall pruning and a renewal pruning (cutting ⅓ of the older canes off at ground level).



Do I have buckthorn on my property?

Common buckthorn
Rhamnus cathartica
(8-25ft)



Buckthorn is a large shrub or tall tree with glossy oval leaves that can easily be recognized in fall, when it remains green after most other leaves have fallen. Buckthorn has berries that are spread by birds. Under the Illinois Exotic Weed Act, buckthorn cannot be sold in Illinois.

HEALTHY HEDGES

Healthy Hedges is a collaborative campaign to reduce the damage caused by invasive woody plants in the Chicago Region. As of 2010, invasive buckthorn and honeysuckle made up 30% of all the trees in the seven county region. Land managers in the region fight a constant—and expensive—battle to protect our shared natural areas from the effects of these woody plants. Help them protect our forests and prairies by replacing invasive hedges in your yard with shrubs from this guide!

- ▶ *Learn how to identify and eradicate invasive species and where to purchase replacement shrubs at:*

ChicagoRTI.org/HealthyHedges

- ▶ *Join the conversation on social media with:*

#HealthyHedges

Provided by:



HEALTHY HEDGES

Invasive Hedge
and Screen
Replacement Guide:
Native Shrubs

Healthy Hedges

Recommended privacy screen replacements, following removal of European Woody Invasive Species

KEY: Habitat Icons

Shrubs are divided into deciduous and conifer sections, then sorted by common name.

- ☀ = Full sun
- ☀ = Full shade
- ☾ = Part shade
- 🦌 = Deer Resistant
- 🟩 = Screen (Landscape use)
- 🟩 = Hedge (Landscape use)
- 💧 = Range of soil wetness tolerated, from dry to standing water

Native, Deciduous Shrubs

Coniferous Shrubs



(Photo shows fall color) Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

Alternate leaved dogwood
Cornus alternifolia
(15-25 ft)
☀ 🟩 S
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: Melissa Custic

American hazelnut
Corylus americana
(6-10ft)
☀ 🟩 HS
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

black-haw
Viburnum prunifolium
(12-15ft)
☀ 🟩 HS 🦌
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



(Photo shows fall color) Photo Credit: Nicholas A. Tonelli

common witch hazel
Hamamelis virginiana
(15-20ft)
☀ 🦌 HS S 🦌
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

fragrant sumac
Rhus aromatica
(2-5ft)
☀ 🟩 H 🦌
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: Prairie Moon Nursery

prairie rose
Rosa setigera
(10-15ft)
☀ 🦌 HS
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

Red-osier Dogwood
Cornus sericea
(5-10ft)
☀ 🟩 HS 🦌
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

smooth wild rose
Rosa blanda
(4-5ft)
☀ HS
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: Melissa Custic

eastern arborvitae
Thuja occidentalis
(40-60ft*)
☀ 🟩 HS
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

American bittersweet
Celastrus scandens
(30-40ft long vine)
☀ 🟩 S 🦌
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

American hornbeam
Carpinus caroliniana
(20-30ft*)
☀ 🦌 S 🦌
💧💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

bush-honeysuckle
Diervilla lonicera
(3-5ft)
☀ 🟩 HS 🦌
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

downy arrowwood
Viburnum rafinesquianum
(5-8ft)
☾ 🦌 HS 🦌
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

maple-leaved viburnum
Viburnum acerifolium
(4-6ft)
☾ 🦌 S 🦌
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: Melissa Custic

purple chokeberry
Aronia prunifolia
(6-12ft)
☀ 🟩 HS
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: Melissa Custic

shingle oak
Quercus imbricaria
(50-60ft*)
☀ 🟩 H
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: Melissa Custic

spicebush
Lindera benzoin
(6-12ft)
☀ 🟩 H 🦌
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: Melissa Custic

eastern hemlock
Tsuga canadensis
(40-70ft*)
☀ 🦌 HS
💧 to 💧💧💧💧

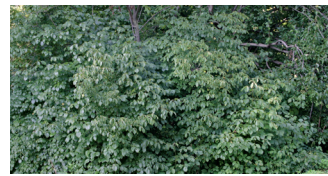


Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

American bladdernut
Staphylea trifolia
(10-15ft)
☀ 🦌 HS 🦌
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

black chokeberry
Aronia melanocarpa
(3-8ft)
☀ 🟩 HS
💧💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

buttonbush
Cephalanthus occidentalis
(6-12ft)
☀ 🟩 S
💧💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

elderberry
Sambucus canadensis
(5-12ft)
☀ 🟩 S 🦌
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: S.J. Meades, Northern Ontario Plant Database

meadowsweet
Spirea alba
(3-4ft)
☀ 🟩 H 🦌
💧 to 💧💧💧💧

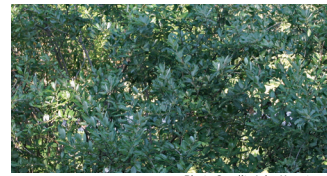


Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

pussy willow
Salix discolor
(15-25ft)
☀ S 🦌
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

shrubby cinquefoil, potentilla
P. fruticosa
(1-4ft)
☀ 🟩 H 🦌
💧 to 💧💧



Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

wild plum
Prunus americana
(15-25ft*)
☀ 🟩 S
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: Jonathan Landsman

American cranberry-bush
Viburnum opulus var. americanum
(8-12ft)
☀ 🟩
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

black raspberry
Rubus occidentalis
(3-6ft)
☀ 🦌 S
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: S.J. Meades, Northern Ontario Plant Database

common ninebark
Physocarpus opulifolius
(5-10ft)
☀ 🟩 HS 🦌
💧 to 💧💧💧💧

Provided by:

± Deer-browsing resistance of any plant species may change due to fluctuations in deer populations, alternative food availability, and environmental factors.
* Although the standard form of this species is a large, single-stemmed tree, it can be trained from a young age to form a hedge at a smaller height. If shrubs are larger than 20 ft at maturity, Do NOT plant under powerlines.
** Plants shown are not to scale and represent various seasonal characteristics.