

# Sea-buckthorn



# Sea-buckthorn (*Hippophae rhamnoides*)

## General Description

A shrub or small tree, native from Europe to the Altai mountains in western and northern China and the Himalayan mountains. Sea-buckthorn was introduced into North America in 1923. A very hardy plant with foliar and fruit interest, but sometimes short-lived.

### Leaves and Buds

Bud and Leaf Arrangement - Alternate.

Bud Color - Silvery to pale brown.

Bud Size - 1/8 to 1/4 inches long.

Leaf Type and Shape - Simple, linear to linear-lanceolate.

Leaf Margins - Entire with no serrations.

Leaf Surface - Silver-white scales, becoming glabrescent at maturity.

Leaf Length - 1 to 3 inches.

Leaf Width - 1/8 to 1/4 inch.

Leaf Color - Silvery-green in summer, grayish-green in fall.

### Flowers and Fruits

Flower Type - Borne in axillary racemes on old wood.

Flower color - Yellow, before leafing out.

Fruit Type - Drupe-like, globose 1/4 to 1/3 inch long.

Fruit Color - Bright orange, persisting from September through the winter.

### Form

Growth Habit - Large shrub or small tree, spreading and irregularly-rounded, loose and open.

Texture - Fine, summer; medium, winter.

Crown Height - 10 to 15 feet.

Crown Width - 8 to 10 feet.

Bark Color - Grayish-brown.

Root System - Fibrous spreading.

## Environmental Requirements

### Soils

Soil Texture - Performs best on coarse-textured soils.

Soil pH - 6.0 to 8.5. Adaptable to high pH and saline soils.

Windbreak Suitability Groups - 1, 1K, 3, 4, 4C, 5, 8, 9C, 9L.

### Cold Hardiness

USDA Zone 3.

### Water

Prefers subsoil moisture as opposed to water-logged or ponded sites.

### Light

Full sun or light shade.

## Uses

### Conservation/Windbreaks

Medium shrub to small tree for farmstead and field windbreaks, roadside bank stabilization, living snow fences and riparian plantings.

### Wildlife

Dense shrubby form provides cover for many wildlife species.

### Agroforestry Products

Food - Astringent fruits, highly acidic, used as a juice in Asia with high Vitamin C content.

Medicinal - Used as curative skin ointments and in cancer research.

### Urban/Recreational

Very attractive silvery-green foliage and orange persisting fruit throughout the winter. A variety of uses in the landscape, especially on droughty and saline sites. Thorns may limit use in some sites. Sometimes short-lived.

## Cultivated Varieties

None.

## Related Species

Russet Buffaloberry (*Shepherdia canadensis*)

Russian-olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*)

Silverberry (*E. commutata*)

Silver Buffaloberry (*S. argentea*)

## Pests

No major pest problems.