



Species Alternatives for Russian Olive in Conservation Plantings Fact Sheet (Plant Materials)

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Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*) is known to be invasive on sites in North Dakota, especially in specific ecosystems such as wetlands, riparian zones, and saline lowlands. Alternative species should be considered on these sites. Species diversity in all plantings is desirable and not only helps reduce the overall effects of various diseases and insect problems, but provides many other ecological and environmental benefits. The following list offers alternative species on sites where Russian olive has been traditionally planted. Species native to the Northern Great Plains are in **bold** lettering, and recommended varieties are in parentheses.

Saline Soils, Slight to Moderate (Salinity varies seasonally. Additional species may survive at higher rates, but their performance is generally less than desired.)

- **Silver Buffaloberry** - excellent fruit, silver color, thorny, forms thickets ('Sakakawea')
- Seaberry - abundant fruit, forms thickets
- Caragana - legume, extremely hardy
- **Golden Currant** - excellent fruit, extremely hardy
- **Silverberry** - silver color, suckers profusely, drought tolerant
- **Green Ash** - tall tree, long-lived ('Cardan')

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Droughty Soils (Slopes, coarse textured soils, and southern aspects all reduce water availability.)

- Caragana - legume, extremely hardy
- **Golden Currant** - abundant fruit, extremely hardy
- Blueleaf Honeysuckle - large shrub, disease and insect resistant ('Freedom')
- **Silver Buffaloberry** - excellent fruit, silver color, thorny, forms thickets ('Sakakawea')
- **Chokecherry** - abundant fruit, forms thickets (Sheridan Source)
- **Skunkbush Sumac** - dense mass of stems and leaves, abundant fruit ('Bighorn')
- **Hawthorn** - excellent fruit, thorny, long-lived ('Homestead')
- **Green Ash** - tall tree, long-lived ('Cardan')
- **Rocky Mountain Juniper** - dense, evergreen
- **Ponderosa Pine** - tall tree, grows fast, evergreen
- Siberian Larch - tall tree, grows fast, deciduous conifer, fall color

Soils With No Major Limitations

All of the above species, plus:

- **Juneberry** - long-lived shrub, excellent fruit
- Nanking Cherry - short-lived shrub, excellent fruit
- Amur/Tatarian Maple - fast growth, possible fall color
- **Plum, American** - thicket forming, thorny, edible fruit
- Common Lilac - forms thickets, long-lived
- Late Lilac - no suckers, long-lived ('Legacy')
- **Nannyberry** - fall color, good fruit, forms thickets
- European Cotoneaster - abundant fruit, fall color ('Centennial')
- Apricot - grows fast, spring/fall color, soft wood, short-lived
- Harbin Pear - medium tree, long-lived, fall color ('McDermand')
- Siberian Crabapple - excellent fruit, long-lived ('Midwest')
- **Black Hills Spruce** - tall tree, dense evergreen, long-lived
- White Poplar - tall tree, grows fast, suckers, long-lived
- **Boxelder** - grows fast, natural regeneration from seed
- **Bur Oak** - tall tree, produces acorns, long-lived
- **Hackberry** - tall tree, long-lived ('Oahe')
- **Eastern Red Cedar** - dense, evergreen
- Scotch Pine - grows fast, long-lived evergreen

Wet Soils (Somewhat poor to poorly drained, not saline.)

- **False Indigo** - legume, shade tolerant, excellent regrowth (Survivor Germplasm)
- **Sandbar Willow** - forms thickets, spring/fall color (Silver Sands Germplasm)
- **Redosier Dogwood** - blood-red bark, multi-stemmed, excellent fruit
- **Highbush Cranberry** - orange-red fall color, abundant red fruit
- **Cottonwood** - tall tree, grows fast
- Hybrid Poplars - tall tree, grows fast
- **Quaking Aspen** - tall tree, fall color, forms thickets
- Golden/White/Redstem Willows - grow fast, dense growth, attractive colors
- Laurel Willow - shiny leaves, round crown