
Habitat: A high shade tolerance allows thorny olive to invade both in open areas as well as under forest canopies.

General Description: A dense evergreen shrub that is multi-stemmed closely resembling autumn olive and Russian olive.

Distinctive Characteristics: Short, sharp shoots give it a thorny appearance. The alternate leaves are oval to elliptical in shape with irregular wavy margins and silvery surfaces. A few reddish-silvery scaly fruits mature in early spring.

Growth Habit: Shrub

Distribution: Found throughout the southeastern U.S.

Thorny Olive *Elaeagnus pungens*



NPS Photo



NPS Photo



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Family: *Elaeagnaceae* (Oleaster Family)