

THAT'S SILVERLEAF BUFFALOBERRY!

(*Shepherdia argentea*)

Silverleaf Buffaloberry is a native shrub with a long history of use throughout North America. Traditionally, Native Americans and European settlers used the plant as food, dye, and medicine. The berries were often cooked into a flavoring sauce for buffalo meat—inspiring the common name. Buffaloberry is also an important source of food and habitat for wildlife. Thickets are ideal windbreaks and provide cover for birds and small mammals. Mule Deer often browse the young shoots.

SILVERLEAF BUFFALOBERRY: *Identifying Characteristics*



THORNS & LEAVES: Arranged *opposite* of each other on twigs, creating a balanced look.

FLOWERS: Yellow clusters in April to mid-summer.

FRUIT: Yellow or light orange, turning red when ripe.



SO WHAT'S THE BIG DEAL?

These two plants might sound the same, but the exotic Russian olive outcompetes and replaces native vegetation creating an unhealthy monoculture. **The native buffaloberry not only looks in balance, it grows in balance with other native plants.**

RECOGNIZING RUSSIAN OLIVE

(Elaeagnus angustifolia)

Russian olive is easy to identify once you learn the difference between it and its close cousin, the native Silverleaf Buffaloberry. At first glance the two are very similar. They can appear shrub-like in size, can grow in the same place, and both have silver leaves and thorns. But a closer look reveals a big difference between the exotic and the native in the way that the branches are arranged.

RUSSIAN OLIVE: *Identifying Characteristics*



THORNS & LEAVES

Arranged *alternately* on twigs.

FLOWERS: Yellow clusters in May & June.

FRUIT: Olives are silver, turning to tan or brown when mature.



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