

# Winter Weed I.D.

teasels  
(*Dipsacus* spp.)



All photos: Chris Evans, U. of IL, Bugwood.org

## What to look for:

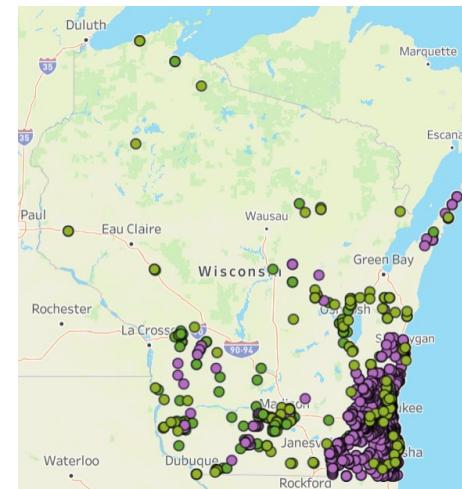
- Spiky, egg-shaped flowerheads
- Robust spiny stems, opposite leaves

## Where to look:

- Roadsides, edges of parking lots, open areas

## Look-alikes:

- Thistles also have spiny stems but not spiny flowerheads that remain on the plant through the winter



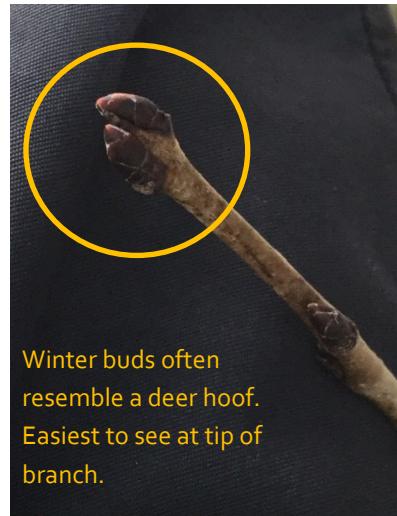
**Think you've found teasel? Let us know!**

Send a report (date, photographs, + location) with the  
EDDMapS App or email [WIFDNcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:WIFDNcoordinator@gmail.com)

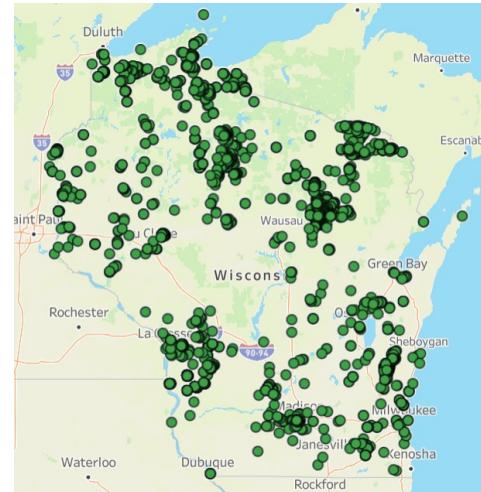


# Winter Weed I.D.

## common buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*)



Winter buds often  
resemble a deer hoof.  
Easiest to see at tip of  
branch.



### What to look for:

- Shrubs/small trees, shiny dark grey bark with dark lenticels. Inner bark bright orange.
- Buds in pairs on stem resemble deer hoof. Often thorn protrudes from tip of stem.
- Female plants have clusters of dark fruits

### Where to look:

- Woods, field edges, urban environments, roadsides

### Look-alikes:

- *Prunus* sp. (cherries, plums) can have similar-looking bark but lack the “deer hoof” buds + orange inner bark

**Think you've found common buckthorn? Let us know!**

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# Winter Weed I.D.

# glossy buckthorn (*Frangula alnus*)



Photo credits (L to R): L.J Mehrhoff, Bugwood.org; A. Pearce

## ***What to look for:***

- Shrubs/small trees, tan to brown bark with white lenticels
- Inner bark orange
- Buds are soft, fuzzy, and rust-colored
- Toothless leaves with parallel veins may remain on plant

## ***Where to look:***

- Wetlands, woods, field edges, urban areas, roadsides

### ***Look-alikes:***

- *Prunus* sp. (cherries) can have similar-looking bark but their buds are hard and sharp-pointed



**Think you've found glossy buckthorn? Let us know!**

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# Winter Weed I.D.

## Amur cork tree (*Phellodendron amurense*)

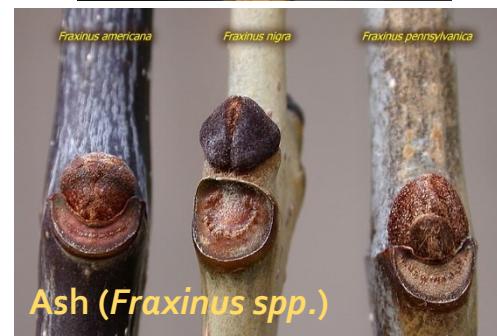
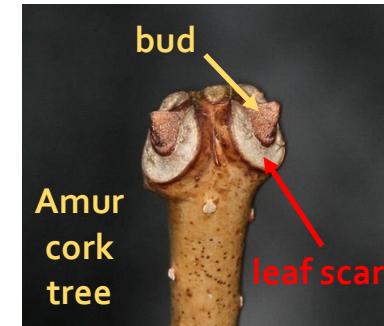


Photo credits (L to R): WI DNR; Christopher Gaetzke, LCIP; Arieh Tal, botphoto.com; Peter Dziuk, minnesotawildflowers.info

### What to look for:

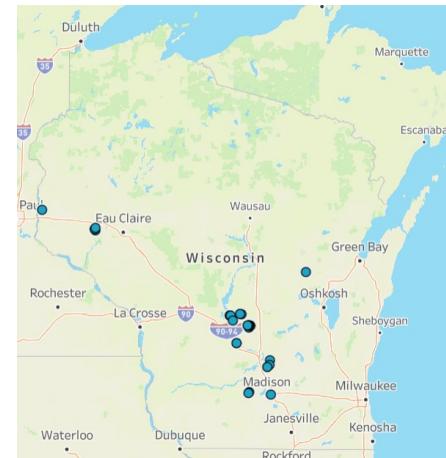
- Corky bark with neon yellow inner bark
- Clusters of dark-colored fruits
- Opposite branching with chocolate chip shaped buds.
- Leaf scar looks like cream-colored horseshoe around bud.

### Where to look:

- Urban areas, forests

### Look-alikes:

- Ash trees also have opposite branching and buds that look like chocolate chips. Leaf scars on ash trees are below the buds and do not extend around sides of bud.



**Think you've found Amur cork tree? Let us know!**

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# Winter Weed I.D.

## round leaf bittersweet (*Celastrus orbiculatus*)



### What to look for:

- Woody vine, tan-colored bark. White lenticels on twigs.
- Fruits in clusters of 3-7 all along stems/branches
- Orange-red seeds are inside yellow-orange capsules

### Where to look:

- Forest edges, hedge-rows, fields, woodlands
- Seasonal decorations often contain bittersweet

### Look-alikes:

- American bittersweet (*C. scandens*) fruits are in larger clusters at the *ends* of branches. See photo at top right.



Think you've found invasive bittersweet? Let us know!

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# Winter Weed I.D.

# Japanese barberry (*Berberis thunbergii*)



2000 © Peter M. Dziuk

Photo credits (L to R): Peter Dziuk, minnesotawildflowers.info; Leslie J. Mehrhoff, U. Conn., Bugwood.org; Anne Pearce



## ***What to look for:***

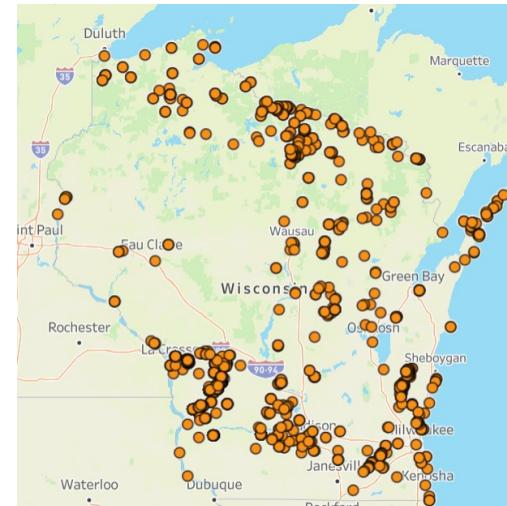
- Arching reddish-brown grooved stems
- Fluorescent yellow inner bark
- Pairs of 1 cm long red fruits at node with single spines

## *Where to look:*

- Forests, forest edges, shorelines, urban areas

## **Look-alikes:**

- Native gooseberry (*Ribes*) species also have spines along their stems but are also covered in smaller prickles/hairs



*Think you've found Japanese barberry? Let us know!*

*Send a report (date, photographs, + location) with the EDDMapS App or email WIFDNcoordinator@gmail.com*



# Winter Weed I.D.

## winged burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*)



Photo credits (L to R): Peter Dziuk, minnesotawildflowers.info; Leslie J. Mehrhoff, U. Conn., Bugwood.org

### What to look for:

- Shrub with opposite branches
- Corky ridges on stems
- Red fruits (~1/2 inch), sometimes with pinkish-red capsule

### Where to look:

- Forests, field edges, urban areas

### Look-alikes:

- The large corky wings on the stems of burning bush make it distinct from other *Euonymus* species



**Think you've found winged burning bush? Let us know!**

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# Winter Weed I.D.

## bush honeysuckles (*Lonicera* spp.)



Photo credits (L to R): Anne Pearce; Kathy Smith, OSU Extension; Anne Pearce

### What to look for:

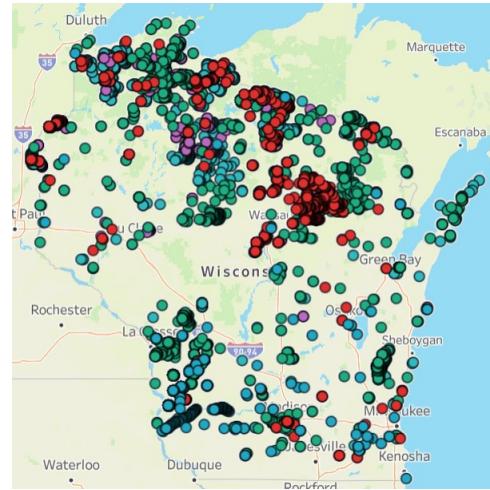
- Shrub with many arching branches; opposite branching
- Bark looks shreddy; may retain dried leaves in winter
- Center of branch (pith) is hollow

### Where to look:

- Urban areas, forests + forest edges, pastures, roadsides

### Look-alikes:

- Elderberry and ninebark also have many arching branches. Elderberries have opposite branching but not shreddy bark. Ninebark has shreddy bark but alternate branching.



**Think you've found invasive honeysuckle? Let us know!**

Send a report (date, photographs, + location) with the EDDMapS App or email [WIFDNcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:WIFDNcoordinator@gmail.com)



# Winter Weed I.D.

## autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*)



Photo credits: Robert Videki, Bugwood.org (L); Leslie J. Mehrhoff, Bugwood.org (center, R)

### What to look for:

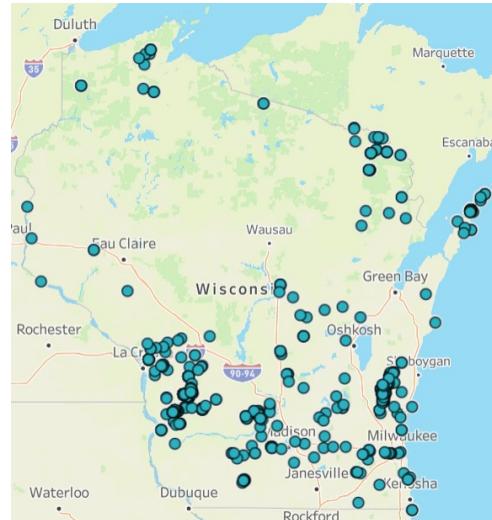
- Shrub 3-20 ft tall with many alternate branches, sometimes with thorns
- Copper-colored scales, especially covering tips of twigs
- Clusters of  $1/4$ - $1/3$  inch red fruits covered in silvery scales

### Where to look:

- Urban areas, forests + forest edges, pastures, roadsides

### Look-alikes:

- Buffalo berries (*Shepherdia* spp.) are native shrubs that are also covered in metallic-looking scales, but they have opposite branching



**Think you've found invasive autumn olive? Let us know!**

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# Winter Weed I.D.

## spotted knapweed (*Centaurea stoebe*)



*Bract with  
black tip*



### **What to look for:**

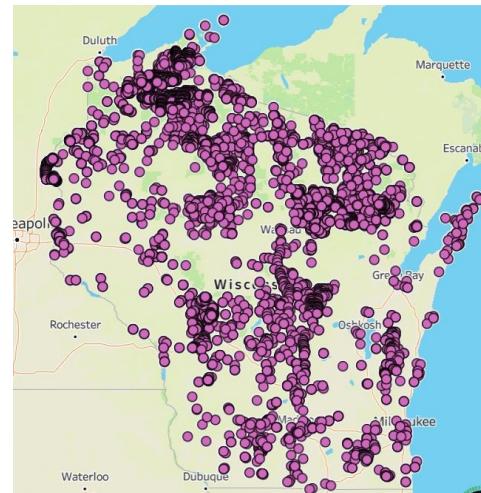
- Dried herbaceous plant with many stems and many small (~ 1/2 inch) flowerheads
- Flowerheads have bracts at base. Each bract has black tip

### **Where to look:**

- Roadsides, sandy/dry areas, grasslands

### **Look-alikes:**

- Other aster family plants may also have standing dead stems with many flowerheads. Knapweed is distinguished by the black-tipped bracts.



**Think you've found invasive spotted knapweed? Let us know!**

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EDDMapS App or email [WIFDNcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:WIFDNcoordinator@gmail.com)



# Winter Weed I.D.

## common tansy (*Tanacetum vulgare*)



### What to look for:

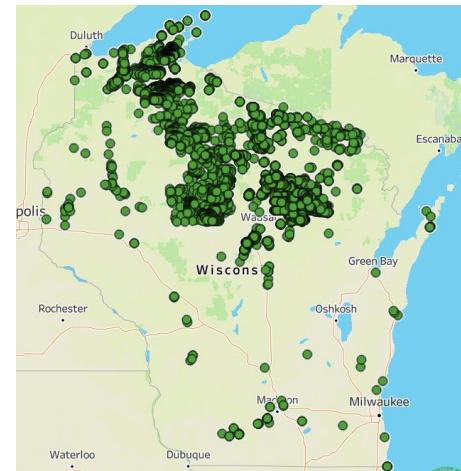
- Flat-topped clusters of brown, button-shaped flowers
- Feathery leaves may still be present on 2-5' tall stem

### Where to look:

- Roadsides, disturbed areas, fields

### Look-alikes:

- Some asters and goldenrods may appear similar in winter.



**Think you've found invasive common tansy? Let us know!**

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EDDMapS App or email [WIFDNcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:WIFDNcoordinator@gmail.com)



# Winter Weed I.D.

## Tips for identifying woody plants

*When spring seems far away or you just don't have the patience to look at buds on woody plants, try this method for identifying woody invasive plants:*

1. Find a woody plant you want to identify
2. Cut a branch and place the cut branch in water
3. Place it by a sunny window and wait for leaves
4. Use a "regular" field guide to learn more about your plant

*If you cut branches from multiple plants, make sure to mark the plant and the cut branch in the same way (maybe with flagging tape, twist-ties, or string) so you can compare later!*

*This is also a great way to learn what to look for in the spring, such as the coppery scale-covered emerging leaves on autumn olive.*



**Think you've found an invasive species? Let us know!**  
Send a report (date, photographs, + location) with the EDDMapS App or email [WIFDNcoordinator@gmail.com](mailto:WIFDNcoordinator@gmail.com)

