

Autumn Olive

(*Elaeagnus umbellata*)

Established in Michigan

RESTRICTED IN MICHIGAN

Report this species:

Use the Midwest Invasive Species Information Network ([MISIN](#)) online reporting tool

- Or - download the MISIN smartphone app and report from your phone -
<http://www.misin.msu.edu/tools/apps/#home>

Identification:

- Deciduous shrub that can grow to 20 feet high
- Leaves are bright green on top and distinctively silver underneath
- Spring-blooming cream or yellow flowers have a strong fragrance
- Abundant red berries are lightly speckled and easily seen in the fall
- Flowers arranged in spikes near the end of the stem are small, numerous, and creamy white in color
- Flowers bloom in August and September in Michigan



Historically planted for wildlife food and habitat, autumn olive has been found to be highly aggressive, with seeds widely dispersed by birds and mammals. Autumn olive can shade out desirable native plants and fixes nitrogen in the soil, which can degrade native plant communities that thrive on low-nutrient soils. It is difficult to control, as cut stumps and roots will resprout.

