



# City of Burnsville

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **CITY OFFERS FREE BUCKTHORN DROP-OFF ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 10**

You may have some *Rhamnus cathartica* in your backyard and not even know it!

That shrub, more commonly known as Buckthorn, is on the short list of invasive species that the City of Burnsville is working hard to control in public parks. Now residents can do their part by chopping down the pesky bushes and bringing them to a free Buckthorn Drop-Off held Saturday, October 10. The drop off takes place at the City of Burnsville Compost Site, 12151 Pleasant Avenue, directly behind Dodge of Burnsville.

Buckthorn is a non-native invasive shrub that grows to excess and disrupts healthy woodland functioning by preventing the growth of native trees and plants. It grows in an alarming number of public and private properties. Many residents have buckthorn in their yards and do not know it. Here are some handy identification tips.

- Grows up to 20' tall and several inches in diameter and in partial shade
- Oval leaves with very slightly toothed leaf edges. Leaf veins bend to the edge of the leaf, and then back to the tip of the leaf.
- Round pea-sized berries that ripen from green to black in late summer
- Smooth gray bark with orange inner bark

When removing Buckthorn, be sure to remove the roots as well or apply an herbicide to the cut stump. Otherwise, the buckthorn will re-sprout. Be sure to watch for new seedlings that may emerge from the soil after the larger buckthorn shrubs are removed. Should your removal amount total more than one truck or trailer load of buckthorn, please bring it to a commercial composting facility. Loads will be inspected upon arrival and any loads containing anything other than buckthorn will be refused. Proof of Burnsville residency required—please bring photo ID or recent utility bill showing a current Burnsville address.

More information: City of Burnsville, 952-895-4550 or visit the Natural Resources Department on [www.burnsville.org](http://www.burnsville.org). Maps and directions to the site are available.

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