



Winter is a great time to treat buckthorn and other woody invasive species!

BCK CISMA

February 2019

NO WINTER SLOW-DOWN FOR INVASIVE WORK!

Winter seems like the time to replace yard tools for snow shovels, but don't bury those tools too far. Winter is the best time to work on trees and shrubs. Trees are dormant in winter, so pruning then prevents bark damage, smaller fruits, stump sprouting, weakened trees, and invasive pests from attacking your trees. One example of an invasive pest spread by improper pruning times is oak wilt. Oak wilt is a fungal disease that damages and kills oak trees. Picnic beetles can spread this fungus to a freshly cut uninfected tree. Winter is a safe time prune your oak trees because picnic beetles are dormant.

Tree harvesting is another management activity that works well in winter. However, before you harvest make sure you check the understory for invasives. A harvest allows for more light and room for the invasives to take over in the spring.

Winter is also a good time for woody invasive removal. It is manual labor that requires thick layers to shield against thorns, which makes it good for when temps are low.

The stems are also easier to reach without the leaves in the way.

To control woody invasives cut the stems and then apply herbicide to the outer ring (cambium) of the stump top immediately. Be careful to not spray herbicide when there is snow cover. In late spring, check back and spray the regrowth with herbicide.

Improper treatment can cause spread. BCK CISMA is dedicated to curbing the spread of invasive species in Barry, Calhoun and Kalamazoo Counties. If you have invasive species concerns within those counties, please contact Fallon Januska at fallon.januska@macd.org or 269-908-4136.



An example of how to properly apply herbicide to a stump in winter. A sponge paintbrush can be particularly helpful.

BCK CISMA this month in numbers

- 2 acres surveyed
- 2 active outreach events
- 223 impressions
- 8 passive outreach efforts
- 620 impressions
- 2 publications with articles
- 30,000 impressions

Steering Committee Updates

The next BCK CISMA Meeting is currently being scheduled for sometime in May. Please submit your availability via the Doodle Poll that Fallon emailed out.

Some woody invasives to look for this winter:

Common buckthorn- leaves are simple and opposite. Its bark is brown to gray, peels with age, and has vertical light-colored lenticels. If you peel back the bark the inner bark is orange. Common buckthorn also has black berries that will persist through the winter.

Glossy Buckthorn- leaves are simple and alternate. Its bark is gray or brown and has prominent lenticels. **Autumn olive**- leaves are simple and alternate. Its stems have thorns and are speckled in appearance.

Multiflora rose- leaves are alternate and pinnately compound. Its stems are green-reddish and rigid with recurved thorns. Multiflora rose also has small, hard, red berries that last into the winter.

Oriental bittersweet- leaves are simple and alternate. It has a red fruit that is covered by an orange skin that peels back in the fall, though the fruit remains on the vine through winter. There is a native, American bittersweet. Its fruits cluster at the end of the stems, while Oriental bittersweet fruits are located all along the stems.



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BCKCISMA
Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area