

**WHY REPLACE BUCKTHORN AND HONEYSUCKLE  
IN YOUR YARD?**

Woody invasive plants, such as common and glossy buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica* and *Rhamnus frangula*) or Eurasian bush-honeysuckles (*Lonicera* spp.), form dense thickets and reproduce aggressively, shading out other plants and disrupting ecosystems in forest preserves and other natural areas. In woodlands, they can completely replace young trees and understory plants, including native wildflowers. Buckthorn also causes long-lasting damage to the soil and wildlife habitat where it grows.

Unfortunately, they are also commonly found in residential landscaping. This guide suggests shrubs that can be planted to replace invasive hedges or screens being removed.

**HOW TO GROW A SCREEN OR HEDGE**

**Freeform screening** – Shrub species can be grown without “formal pruning” using their natural structure.

**Formal hedges** – Start with 18"-24" plants, cutting back to 6" to cause low branching. Cut off half the new growth over the next two years. Start shaping the hedge the third year, making the base broader than the top. Formal hedges must be sheared 2 or more times each year.

**Naturalistic hedges** – Informal hedges grow best when plants are kept at about ¾ of their full size. Start with shrubs that will get a little bigger than the size of the hedge you want. Once a year, these hedges need a light overall pruning and a renewal pruning (cutting ⅓ of the older canes off at ground level).



*Do I have  
buckthorn on  
my property?*

**Common buckthorn**  
*Rhamnus cathartica*  
(8-25ft)

Buckthorn is a large shrub or tall tree with glossy oval leaves that can easily be recognized in fall, when it remains green after most other leaves have fallen. Buckthorn has berries that are spread by birds. Under the Illinois Exotic Weed Act, buckthorn cannot be sold in Illinois.

**HEALTHY HEDGES**

Healthy Hedges is a collaborative campaign to reduce the damage caused by invasive woody plants in the Chicago Region. As of 2010, invasive buckthorn and honeysuckle made up 30% of all the trees in the seven county region. Land managers in the region fight a constant—and expensive—battle to protect our shared natural areas from the effects of these woody plants. Help them protect our forests and prairies by replacing invasive hedges in your yard with shrubs from this guide!

- ▶ *Learn how to identify and eradicate invasive species and where to purchase replacement shrubs at:*

**ChicagoRTI.org/HealthyHedges**

- ▶ *Join the conversation on social media with:*

**#HealthyHedges**

*Provided by:*



**HEALTHY HEDGES**

Invasive Hedge  
and Screen  
Replacement Guide:  
*Native Shrubs*



KEY: Habitat Icons

Shrubs are divided into deciduous and conifer sections, then sorted by common name.

☀ = Full sun

☀ = Full shade

☾ = Part shade

🦌 = Deer Resistant

☐S = Screen (Landscape use)

☐H = Hedge (Landscape use)

💧 = Range of soil wetness tolerated, from dry to standing water

# Healthy Hedges

*Recommended privacy screen replacements, following removal of European Woody Invasive Species*

## Native, Deciduous Shrubs



(Photo shows fall color) Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

**Alternanthera versicolor**  
*Cornus alternifolia*  
(15-25 ft)  
☀ ☾ S  
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: Melissa Custic

**American hazelnut**  
*Corylus americana*  
(6-10ft)  
☀ ☾ HS  
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

**black-haw**  
*Viburnum prunifolium*  
(12-15ft)  
☀ ☾ HS 🦌  
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



(Photo shows fall color) Photo Credit: Nicholas A. Tonelli

**common witch hazel**  
*Hamamelis virginiana*  
(15-20ft)  
☀ ☀ HS 🦌  
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

**fragrant sumac**  
*Rhus aromatica*  
(2-5ft)  
☀ ☾ H 🦌  
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: Prairie Moon Nursery

**prairie rose**  
*Rosa setigera*  
(10-15ft)  
☀ ☀ HS  
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

**Red-osier Dogwood**  
*Cornus sericea*  
(5-10ft)  
☀ ☾ HS 🦌  
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

**smooth wild rose**  
*Rosa blanda*  
(4-5ft)  
☀ HS  
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: Melissa Custic

**eastern arborvitae**  
*Thuja occidentalis*  
(40-60ft\*)  
☀ ☾ HS  
💧 to 💧💧💧💧

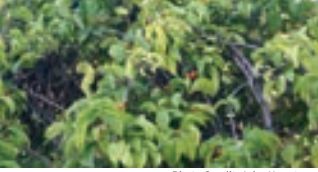


Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

**American bittersweet**  
*Celastrus scandens*  
(30-40ft long vine)  
☀ ☾ S 🦌  
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

**American hornbeam**  
*Carpinus caroliniana*  
(20-30ft\*)  
☀ ☀ S 🦌  
💧💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

**bush-honeysuckle**  
*Diervilla lonicera*  
(3-5ft)  
☀ ☾ HS 🦌  
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

**downy arrowwood**  
*Viburnum rafinesquianum*  
(5-8ft)  
☾ ☀ H 🦌  
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

**maple-leaved viburnum**  
*Viburnum acerifolium*  
(4-6ft)  
☾ ☀ S 🦌  
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: Melissa Custic

**purple chokeberry**  
*Aronia prunifolia*  
(6-12ft)  
☀ ☾ HS  
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: Melissa Custic

**shingle oak**  
*Quercus imbricaria*  
(50-60ft\*)  
☀ ☾ H  
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: Melissa Custic

**spicebush**  
*Lindera benzoin*  
(6-12ft)  
☀ ☾ H 🦌  
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: Melissa Custic

**eastern hemlock**  
*Tsuga canadensis*  
(40-70ft\*)  
☀ ☀ HS  
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

**American bladdernut**  
*Staphylea trifolia*  
(10-15ft)  
☀ ☀ HS 🦌  
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

**black chokeberry**  
*Aronia melanocarpa*  
(3-8ft)  
☀ ☾ HS  
💧💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

**buttonbush**  
*Cephalanthus occidentalis*  
(6-12ft)  
☀ ☾ S  
💧💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

**elderberry**  
*Sambucus canadensis*  
(5-12ft)  
☀ ☾ S 🦌  
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: S.J. Meades, Northern Ontario Plant Database

**meadowsweet**  
*Spirea alba*  
(3-4ft)  
☀ ☾ H 🦌  
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

**pussy willow**  
*Salix discolor*  
(15-25ft)  
☀ S 🦌  
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

**shrubby cinquefoil, potentilla**  
*P. fruticosa*  
(1-4ft)  
☀ ☾ H 🦌  
💧 to 💧💧



Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

**wild plum**  
*Prunus americana*  
(15-25ft\*)  
☀ ☾ S  
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: Jonathan Landsman

**American cranberry-bush**  
*Viburnum opulus* var. *americanum* (8-12ft)  
☀ ☾  
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: John Hagstrom

**black raspberry**  
*Rubus occidentalis* (3-6ft)  
☀ ☀ S  
💧 to 💧💧💧💧



Photo Credit: S.J. Meades, Northern Ontario Plant Database

**common ninebark**  
*Physocarpus opulifolius* (5-10ft)  
☀ ☾ HS 🦌  
💧 to 💧💧💧💧

Provided by:

± Deer-browsing resistance of any plant species may change due to fluctuations in deer populations, alternative food availability, and environmental factors.

\* Although the standard form of this species is a large, single-stemmed tree, it can be trained from a young age to form a hedge at a smaller height. If shrubs are larger than 20 ft at maturity, Do NOT plant under powerlines.

\*\* Plants shown are not to scale and represent various seasonal characteristics.