

Invasive Species

Taxonomic Name: *Elaeagnus angustifolia*

Common Name: *Russian olive*

Physical Description:

Growth Type: *The Russian olive is a shrub or a small tree that typically grows up to 20 feet high, often with a single trunk and a rapid growth rate. The canopy is rather loose and open.*



Leaves: *The leaves are approximately 1 - 3 inches in length and up to ½ inch in width, in a long linear-elliptic shape. The leaves are gray-green on top and silver-gray below and remain attached until late fall. They do not develop any color in fall.*

Flowers: *The yellow flowers are ½ inches in diameter, with four lobes and are present in late spring after the leaves have developed on the tree. The flowers are difficult to see through the foliage however, they have a pungent (spicy) fragrance so it is easily to know when the tree is in flower if you are in proximity to it.*



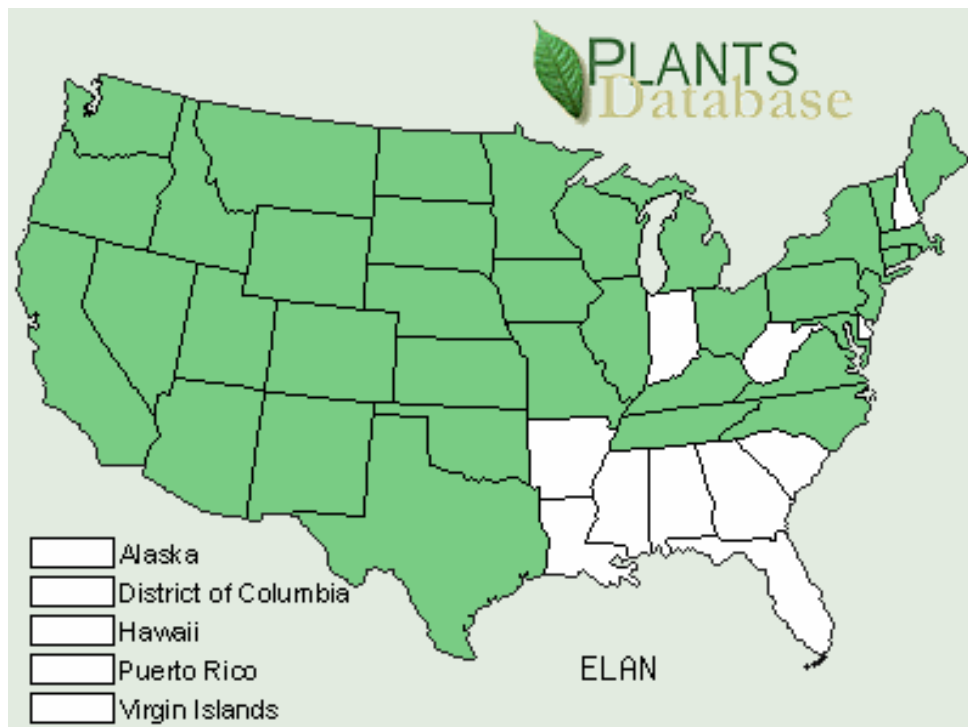
Fruit: *Silvery-yellow olives emerge in late summer, which are edible by humans and animals alike.*



Bark: *The bark is smooth with a medium to fine texture and is reddish brown with a light silvery gray felt-like coating. There are occasionally thorns on the stems.*

Invasive Nature: *The Russian olive is mostly dispersed by seeds eaten and spread by birds and other small mammals. It is also sold in many nurseries as an ornamental shrub.*

Coverage Area:



Sources:

<http://www.hort.uconn.edu/Plants/e/elaang/elaang1.html>
<http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=ELAN>