

Russian Olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*)

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A thorny shrub or small tree growing to 5-7 metres in height.



Distribution

Extensive distribution in the Kamloops area.

Interesting Facts:

This tree does not produce flowers or fruit until it is at least 3 years old.

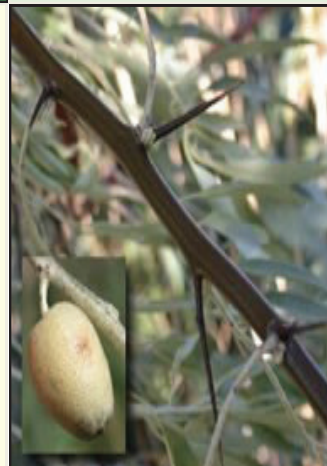
Quick ID

Its stems, buds, and leaves have a dense covering of silvery to rusty scales.

Has black bark.

Creamy yellow flowers.

Fruit that resemble olives.



Manual Treatment: Hand pulling or digging is effective; done best when soil is moist. Wear gloves, avoid skin contact. If any portion of flower is beginning to emerge, or if seed heads are formed, pick, bag, and remove.



Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
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Flowers: The highly aromatic flowers are produced in clusters of one to three, 1 cm long with a four-lobed creamy yellow corolla; they appear in early summer and are later replaced by clusters of fruit, a small cherry-like drupe 1-1.7 cm long, orange-red covered in silvery scales. The plants begin to flower and fruit at three years old.

Leaves and Stems: The leaves are alternate, lanceolate, 4-9 cm long and 1-2.5 cm broad, with a smooth margin. Has black bark.

Seeds: The fruit is edible and sweet, though with a dryish mealy texture. Its common name comes from its similarity in appearance to olive.

Roots: The shrub can fix nitrogen in its roots, enabling it to grow on bare, mineral substrates.

Reproduction and Dispersal: Establishment and reproduction is primarily by seed, although some vegetative propagation also occurs. The fruit is readily eaten and disseminated by many species of birds.

Habitat Preference: It often invades riparian areas.

