

AUTUMN OLIVE

Elaeagnus umbellata



Hoosier Heartland RC & D

Mature Height	20 Feet	Soil Type	Well Drained, Sandy, Low fertility
Mature Spread	20 to 25 feet	Flower Color	Creamy White
Mature Form	Rounded	Foliage Color	Green to Silver
Growth Rate	Fairly Rapid	Fall Color	Green - Silver till leaf drop
Sun Exposure	Prefers full		
Soil Moisture	Well Drained		

Autumn Olive is a deciduous shrub or small tree that is highly invasive in Indiana. From a distance it can be identified by its silvery appearance. The leaves are medium green on top and distinctly silver-green on the underside. It was planted extensively for highway beautification and wildlife food in the 50's and early 60's and is spreading rapidly. It crowds out many native plants and since it fixes nitrogen it improves soil fertility to the point that many plant communities that prefer low fertility soils cannot survive. It is often called "Autumnberry" and prized by some for its food value. The fruit is high in lycopene and other nutrients. It is being grown commercially in a few places for its food value, especially for making jams and jellies. It is considered an invasive plant in Indiana and should not be planted. Control is best achieved by cutting the woody stem or trunk and immediately treating the stump with a systemic herbicide such as glyphosate or triclopyr at a 20% concentration. Follow label directions when using herbicides.



Creamy white flowers



Roadsides heavily infested



Reddish to pink Fruit in Fall with silver spots.

Photos by Hoosier Heartland RC & D



This fact sheet was developed by the West Central Indiana Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) with funding by the Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust. The CWMA consists of 27 western and central Indiana counties and strives to help land users identify and control invasive terrestrial plants through workshops, field days and other educational activities.

