

Carolina Buckthorn

Frangula caroliniana

Secondary Names:

Indian-Cherry, Yellow Buckthorn

Leaf Type: Deciduous

Texas Native: Yes No

Firewise: Yes No



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Tree Description:

Large shrub or small understory tree, to 20 feet tall and trunks 4" to 8" in diameter, with an open, oval crown and glossy foliage.

Range/Site Description:

Usually found in the understory of fertile woods in East Texas, west to the moist canyons of the Edwards Plateau.

Leaf:

Simple, alternate, 3" to 6" long, oval or elliptical, leaf edge without teeth; veins are distinctive, running parallel to each other from the midrib. Leaves are glossy and dark green on top, lighter and somewhat pubescent underneath, turning yellow-orange in the fall.

Flower:

Small clusters of green-to-white flowers, only 0.1" or so across, borne in the axils between the twig and the leaf on short stalks.

Fruit:

A round, orange or red drupe, about 0.25" in diameter, on a short stalk, ripening in late summer or early fall; attractive to birds.

Bark:

Smooth, tight, gray to brown, developing patches and shallow furrows on older trunks.

Wood:

Yellow sapwood is distinctive. Used principally as an ornamental tree for landscapes.

Similar Species:

Common persimmon (*Diospyros virginiana*) is a medium to large tree with dark, blocky bark and large, edible fruits in the fall. Spicebush (*Lindera benzoin*) is a shrub with leaves that are very aromatic when crushed.

Interesting Facts:

Formerly classified in the genus *Rhamnus*.