



SOUTH NATION
CONSERVATION
DE LA NATION SUD

Fighting the Good Fight: Buckthorn and Other Invasives in Your Woodlot

February 22nd, 2019





Biology and Life Cycle



Identification

Black fruits in
dense clusters
remain into
winter



Opposite to
sub-opposite
leaves



Thorn-like tips
located at the
end of the twig



Dark grey to
black bark
with
prominent
small lenticels
similar to
birch





Biology and Life Cycle



- Dense thickets suppress shade-intolerant species
- Seeds can remain viable in the soil for up to 5 years
- Fallen seeds can produce a seedling in as little as 28 days



- Dry and moist habitats
- In almost any type of soil
- In sunny or shaded areas



Cut Buckthorn stump

- Noxious weed in the Weed Control Act
- Impacts to:
 - Biodiversity
 - Forestry
 - Agriculture
 - Recreation



Methods



BMP Control Measures



- Chemical Control
 - Herbicide Application
- Mechanical Control
 - Hand Pulling
 - Cutting/girdling
 - Mowing
 - Grazing
 - Flooding
 - Disposal



Buckthorn Removal Trial

- 140 acre forest, 6.5 km maintained forest trail
- SNC's first acquired property in 1962
- Commercial harvest completed in 2001 and 2018



South Dundas
County Road 18, Brinston



Robert Graham Conservation Area



- Thatched area indicates buckthorn removal site
- Approximately 5 acres in size
- Red Pine overstory
- Heavy infestation
 - Buckthorn dominant component of the understory



Method 1



- Mechanical and Chemical control
- Stumps cut using brush saws to remove large diameter seed bearing stems

After brush cutting, pre-brush cutting comparison



Application



- Controlled application using a bingo dabber in July
- Glyphosate with blue dye marker as per label
 - Systemic Herbicide.



Method 2



- Hand pulling
- Weed Wrench
- Removal of smaller stems



Long term strategy



- Planted 600 potted native, species to encourage regeneration of desirable species
 - Sugar Maple, Red and Bur Oak
- Encourage natural regeneration of White Pine
- Follow up for a number of years

Our Local Environment, We're in it Together.



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