



TETON COUNTY WEED AND PEST DISTRICT

Russian olive *Elaeagnus angustifolia*

Russian olive is a fruit producing tree that grows between 10-25 feet tall. Trunks and branches have a generally red-brown appearance and are protected by 1-2 inch spikes. The long narrow leaves have a silvery appearance. The flowers are small, yellow, fragrant, and arranged in clusters. The fruit produced is olive shaped and very light green-brown with a thin furry outer covering.

In Wyoming, Russian olive has become a major problem in several river corridors. It forms dense almost impenetrable stands that choke out native vegetation. The roots can form advantageous buds so it's possible for just one tree to create a colony in the right environment. This tree is also very versatile in the soils it prefers and was originally brought over for that value as a tool for creating windbreaks as well as mine reclamation.

In Teton County, there are a few plantings of Russian olive trees that have not escaped their ornamental planting. Additionally, there is a willow native to our area, that is similar in appearance and if you need help identifying or if you are looking for alternative trees to plant, **please contact us Teton County Weed & Pest District 733-8419.**



A large infestation competing with native cottonwoods

