



**903 N. Black Avenue
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406) 582-3265**

RUSSIAN OLIVE MANAGEMENT TIPS

Russian olive, a member of the Oleaster family, is a small deciduous tree that can grow up to 25 feet tall. It was intentionally introduced as an ornamental and for windbreaks, erosion control and wildlife enhancement purposes. The stems have stiff, woody thorns. The leaves are silvery, especially on the lower surface. The fruit resembles small tan or silvery olives. Russian olive has replaced willow and cottonwood as the dominant woody vegetation in many riparian areas.



Management and control efforts must be planned for several consecutive growing seasons at the existing site in order to prevent seed formation/dispersal and to monitor for, and appropriately treat, any new plants that emerge from seeds or roots.

Effective control measures for the management of Russian olive include:

- 1. Mechanical (hand pulling & digging):** Small immature plants may be controlled by removing all roots and underground stems. Return to the area for several years to monitor for and remove any new plants. Dispose of plant material by drying and burning or by placing material in a bag and taking it to your local landfill. Wear gloves when pulling or digging plants.
- 2. Herbicide: Always follow directions on the label. The label is the law!** Calibrate your equipment to ensure that you are adding the proper amount of herbicide to your tank. The following herbicides are commonly used to control Russian olive.

Mixing rates in small backpack or hand sprayers are as follows:

Garlon 4: Use as a basal bark or cut stump treatment (read the label for directions).

Arsenal: Apply to foliage or use as a cut stump treatment (read the label for directions).

Rates in large sprayers are as follows:

Garlon 4: Use as a basal bark or cut stump treatment (read the label for directions).

Arsenal: Apply to foliage or use as a cut stump treatment (read the label for directions).

- 3. Integrated management:** Management of Russian olive is more effective when more than one strategy is used.