

**KEY
CHARACTERISTICS**

- growth** Small, usually thorny shrub or small tree that can grow to 30 ft in height. At three years of age, plants begin to flower and fruit. It also reproduces vegetatively by sprouts from adventitious buds.
- flower** Highly aromatic, creamy yellow flowers appear in June and July shortly after leaf out.
- leaves** Egg or lance-shaped, smooth margined, and alternate. The upper surface of its leaves are light green in color and are covered with silvery star-shaped hairs, and the lower surface of its leaves are silvery white and densely covered with scales.
- fruit** Olive shaped fruits are dry, mealy, yellow red and very abundant. Each fruit contains one nut, approx. 5 mm long.



Elevation:
5500- 7000 feet

Ecotypes Invaded:
Grassland, SW interior riparian, great basin & montane conifer woodlands.

ECOLOGY & DISTRIBUTION

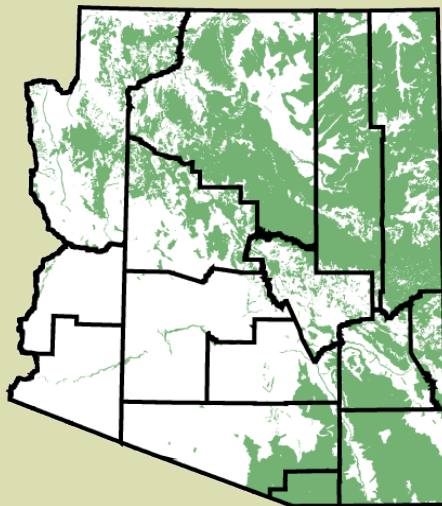
Prefers sandy moist soil and riparian areas. It can withstand flooding, silting and drought, and is shade tolerant.

Commonly found invading floodplains, riverbanks, stream courses, marshes, and irrigation ditches in the West, occurring from sea level to at least 8000 ft.

It grows rapidly and especially well in riparian situations and has been documented as out-competing the native plains cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*).



SUITABLE HABITAT



Suitable habitat based on the Arizona Wildlands Invasive Plant Working Group (AZ-WIPWG) assessment. Green = suitable habitat; White = unsuitable habitat; Gray = unknown. Based on Brown, Lowe & Pase (1980) vegetation communities.

***May be confused with the closely related autumn olive (*Elaeagnus umbellata*), which is also an invasive species. They can be easily distinguished because *E. angustifolia* leaves are narrower, longer, and are often more silvery in color, while *E. umbellata* leaves are greener.

Branches of *E. angustifolia* are also flexible and usually thorny, whereas *E. umbellata* branches are not, and *E. angustifolia* has distinctive dry mealy yellow fruits (*E. umbellata* fruits are typically red-pink and juicy). ***

***It is also possible to confuse *E. angustifolia* with native *Shepherdia* species. They share several characteristics, but the leaves of *Elaeagnus* are alternately arranged while *Shepherdia* leaves are oppositely arranged. ***