Wildlife Plantings

When native vegetation is insufficient, planting wildlife foods such as autumn olive will provide excellent cover and food. Autumn olive is a deciduous shrub that grows to eighteen feet tall and has numerous stems. The branches spread out about as wide as the shrub is tall. The bark is thin and smooth, changing to gray as the plant ages. The leaves are dark green with silvery undersides. This plant produces an abundance of small yellow flowers each spring and a heavy crop of berries that ripen throughout August and September. The berries range in color from yellow to dark red and are one-eighth to one-fourth inch in diameter.

**Adaptation:** Prefers deep well-drained or moderately well-drained soils. Competition from adjacent herbaceous weeds and woody shrubs should be eliminated. Autumn olive has low water requirements and a high tolerance to salt and alkali soils.

**Uses:** Provides soil protection and beautification, and is an excellent food plant for many kinds of birds and mammals. Fruit remains on the plant until late winter, potentially becoming an important wildlife food during periods of seasonal food scarcity. Turkeys readily take the red berries in fall.

**Planting Time:** From mid-winter to early spring. Not native.

**Planting Rate:** Space the seedlings eight to ten feet apart for hedgerow planting and at least twelve feet apart for individual plants.

**Method of Establishment:** Machine or hand plant. The hole must be large enough to accommodate the plant roots without crowding. The hole will have to be four to six inches larger in diameter and four to six inches deeper than the actual plant root measurements.

**Shipping:** Fall and spring. Shipped bareroot and priced in lots of 25, 50, 100+ seedlings.

---

Invite Autumn Olive into your yard!  

The Autumn Olive tree, *Elaeagnus umbellata*, is a medium-sized tree or a large shrub reaching heights of twenty-plus feet. The leaves, borne alternately on the stems, are generally oval in shape, approximately one to three inches long, and lack teeth. The upper surfaces of the leaves are dark green to grayish-green in color, while the lower surfaces are covered with silvery-white scales, a conspicuous characteristic that can be seen from a distance when the leaves move. The small light yellow flowers bloom in late April and May. This deciduous tree is a good plant for fast-growing landscape projects. The small (less than one-fourth inch) fleshy fruits range in color from pink to red, are finely dotted with pale scales, and are produced in abundance each year.

**Mature Height**..............15-20 feet  
**Mature Spread**..............15-20 feet  
**Mature Form**.................Irregular  
**Growth Rate**.................Rapid  
**Sun Exposure**..............Full sun  
**Soil Moisture**.............Widely adaptable  

**Soil Type**.......................Widely adaptable  
**Flower Color**...............Yellow  
**Foliage Color**...............Green  
**Fall Color**....................Yellow  
**Zones**..........................3-9 S