Russian Olive (Elaeagnus angustifolia) & Autumn Olive (Elaeagnus umbellata)

NATIVE TO: Asia
CURRENT DISTRIBUTION IN ILLINOIS: Isolated distribution mostly in the Southern half of the state.
IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS: Deciduous tree or shrub up to 30 ft tall. Both species have simple alternate silvery colored leaves. Silvery color also found on new stems. Russian Olive: narrow, lance-shaped leaves 1 to 3 in long with yellow fruit. Autumn Olive: Elliptic leaves with red fruit.
IMPORTANCE: Grows densely to shade out native species. Fixes nitrogen into soil changing plant and associated animal composition.
HABITAT: Roadsides, disturbed areas, meadow, and riparian areas.
MANAGEMENT: Cutting and girdling effective. Herbicide follow up with stump or basal treatment effective.