

## ELAEAGNACEAE – OLEASTER FAMILY

**Plant:** shrubs and small trees

**Stem:** very branchy; twigs often spiny and densely covered with hairs (star-shaped) or scales (also sometimes on leaves and fruit)

**Root:**

**Leaves:** deciduous; simple, opposite or alternate or rarely whorled, mostly without teeth, may be thickened, short petioles; pinnately veined; no stipules

**Flowers:** perfect or imperfect (monoecious or dioecious); small, solitary or in clusters at bases of leaves; calyx (2)4(6) lobed; no petals; usually 4-8 stamens; ovary superior, 1 carpel, 1 pistil

**Fruit:** like a dry drupe but flesh covered, 1 seed

**Other:** Dicotyledons Group

**Genera:** 3+ genera; locally *Elaeagnus* (oleaster), *Shepherdia*

## ELAEAGNACEAE – OLEASTER FAMILY

Russian Olive; *Elaeagnus angustifolia* L. (Introduced)

Autumn Elaeagnus [Olive]; *Elaeagnus umbellata* Thunb. (Introduced)

# Russian Olive

*Elaeagnus angustifolia* L. (Introduced)

Elaeagnaceae (Oleaster Family)

Maumee River Metroparks, Lucas County, Ohio

Notes: small tree; flowers silvery with scales; leaves lanceolate to somewhat elliptical, top covered with silvery scales becoming green later (scales gone), silver scales cover bottom; bark furrowed; twigs covered with silver scales (not brown) and densely pubescent; fruit yellow, short stalked, with some silver scales (ID tentative)

[V Max Brown, 2004]



# Autumn Elaeagnus

## [Olive]



*Elaeagnus umbellata* Thunb.  
(Introduced)

Elaeagnaceae (Oleaster Family)  
Maumee River Metroparks, Lucas County,  
Ohio

Notes: shrub; 4-lobed flowers, white, from  
leaf axils; leaves entire, silvery beneath and  
often curling at the edges; bark gray to  
brown; twigs silvery or golden brown  
dotted with scales; fruit red dotted with  
silver or brown scales; spring

[V Max Brown, 2006]

