

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*

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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]



