

Rhamnus alaternus

(Italian Buckthorn)

Rhamnus alaternus is a evergreen shrub 1&ndash;5 m high. The stems have reddish bark and pubescent young branches, rounded and compact foliage with alternating leaves, leathery, shiny green, yellowish-green underneath. The small fragrant flowers are gathered in a yellow-green raceme. Flowering period extends from February to April. Fruits are red-brownish drupes. The drupes darken to black when ripe. Fruits have medicinal properties and can be used with caution as a laxative. Adapts well to any conditions, drought and salt resistance. Needs full to partial fun. Used as in xeriscaping, or a hedge, screen. Rhamnus alaternus is commonly used in reforestation programs in the Mediterranean, due to its fruitfulness and ability to survive in xeric environments. Can be used as a windbreak also.



Plant Image

Landscape Information

<b>French Name:</b> Nerprun panaché, Alaterne panaché argenté
<b>Pronunciation:</b> RAM-nus uh-LAH-ter-nus
<b>Plant Type:</b> Shrub
<b>Origin:</b> Mediterranean
<b>Heat Zones:</b>
<b>Hardiness Zones:</b> 8, 9, 10
<b>Uses:</b> Hedge, Container, Edible, Wildlife
<b>Size/Shape</b>
<b>Growth Rate:</b> Moderate
<b>Tree Shape:</b> Spreading
<b>Canopy Symmetry:</b> Symmetrical
<b>Canopy Density:</b> Medium
<b>Canopy Texture:</b> Medium
<b>Height at Maturity:</b> 3 to 5 m
<b>Spread at Maturity:</b> 1.5 to 3 meters

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Flower Image

### Botanical Description

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#### Foliage

**Leaf Venation:** Pinnate

**Leaf Persistence:** Evergreen

**Leaf Type:** Simple

**Leaf Blade:** 5 - 10 cm

**Leaf Margins:** Serrate

**Leaf Textures:** Glossy

**Leaf Scent:**

**Color(growing season):** Green

**Color(changing season):** Green

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#### Flower

**Flower Showiness:** True

**Flower Scent:** No Fragrance

**Flower Color:** Green, Yellow

**Seasons:** Spring

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#### Trunk

**Trunk Susceptibility to Breakage:** Generally resists breakage

**Number of Trunks:** Can be trained to one trunk

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#### Fruit

**Fruit Showiness:** True

**Fruit Size Range:** 0 - 1.5

**Fruit Colors:** Red

**Seasons:** Spring

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Leaf Image

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### Horticulture Management

#### Tolerance

**Frost Tolerant:** Yes

**Drought Tolerant:** Yes

**Salt Tolerance:** Moderate

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#### Requirements

**Soil Requirements:** Loam, Sand

**Soil Ph Requirements:** Acidic, Neutral

**Water Requirements:** Moderate, Low

**Light Requirements:** Full, Part

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#### Management

**Susceptibility to Pests and Diseases:** No

**Pruning Requirement:** Little needed, to develop a strong structure

**Fruit/ Leaves/ Flowers litter:** No

**Surface Rooting:** Yes

**Life Span:** 25-50 years

**Edible Parts:** Fruit

**Plant Propagations:** Seed, Cutting

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## MORE IMAGES



Fruit Image



Bark Image



Other Image