



DESIGN. CRAFT. PRESERVE.

INVASIVE SPECIES REMOVAL

Eliminate Invasive Species Before Winter

Late September through October presents the single most effective window of the year to eliminate aggressive invasive plants and unwanted trees.

REMOVAL METHODS

Natural / Mechanical Clearing

- **Tools:** Hand-pulling, loppers, mechanical weed wrench.
- **Best For:** Small saplings in soft damp soil or sensitive garden/stream borders.
- **The Trap:** Cutting alone triggers "root panic" in buckthorn, knotweed, and Siberian elm—causing 5 to 10 aggressive sucker sprouts for every cut stem.

Chemical Foliar Spraying

- **Tools:** Tank sprayer, broadcast liquid herbicide.
- **Best For:** High-acreage fields where hand clearing is impossible.
- **The Trap:** High risk of chemical drift killing native hardwoods/turf; cannot be used near lakes, streams, or wetlands.

Hybrid Cut-Stump Method (Pro Recommended)

- **Tools:** Saw + precision applicator bottle/brush.
- **Best For:** Mature buckthorn thickets, Siberian elm, and dense woody brush.
- **Why It Works:** Cut low, then treat the fresh stump instantly. Autumn's downward sap flow pulls treatment deep into roots for a permanent kill using 90% less product.

ESSENTIAL TOOL CHECKLIST

- **Marking & Safety:** High-vis flagging tape, work gloves, safety glasses.
- **Cutting Gear:** Hand loppers, folding pruning saw, chainsaw (for larger trees), weed wrench.
- **Precision Application:** Belt-holstered applicator bottle or foam brush, concentrated stump treatment.
- **Disposal:** Heavy-duty hauling tarp, trailer, or commercial wood chipper.

4-STEP STRATEGY & SITE RESTORATION

Step 1: Flag Targets (Early Oct) Walk property boundaries as native trees drop leaves. Flag bright green buckthorn thickets and Siberian elm saplings.

Step 2: Cut & Treat (Mid Oct) Saw target brush 2–4 inches from soil line. Apply stump treatment within 15 minutes before the plant naturally seals its vascular pathways.

Step 3: Target Weeds (Late Oct) Spray herbaceous weeds (knapweed/tansy) on calm afternoons above 50°F. If dormant brown, hold off until spring.

Step 4: Safe Disposal Chip, execute permitted burns, or haul brush away. Never pile berry-laden buckthorn near forest edges—seeds stay viable for years.

PRO TIPS FOR LANDOWNERS

Target the Cambium Ring: Apply treatment only to the outer ring beneath the bark (active vascular tissue), not the entire stump top.

Protect Watersheds: Keep broadcast sprays away from Lake Superior drainages and trout streams to prevent runoff and bank erosion.



Heavy brush clearing and hazardous tree removal take commercial equipment and hard labor. Boulder Creek Outdoor Living handles the heavy lifting across Duluth, Superior, Hermantown, Cloquet, and the Iron Range



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