Black cherry stump sprouts



Common buckthorn saplings



Close-up of buckthorn bark



Winter identification of young Black Cherry trees v. Common Buckthorn trees

Black cherry	Common buckthorn
Bark : smooth, dark-colored with obvious light-colored lenticels (pores used in respiration). Underbark is a greenish-white; very different from buckthorn underbark.	Bark : dark-colored, rough and flaky. Note the orange-colored underbark exposed in the photos above. A pocketknife is handy for checking this, to confirm it is buckthorn <i>before</i> cutting.
Twigs: arranged on the branch in an alternate pattern	Twigs: arranged in a nearly opposite pattern
General overall shape: erect young tree	General overall shape: twisted, crooked young tree