



# Winged Burning Bush

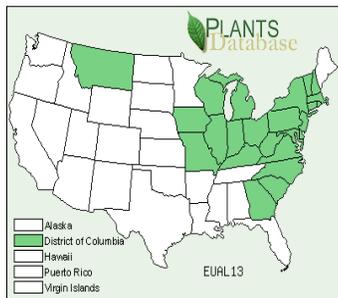
*Euonymus alatus* (Thunb.) Sieb.

**Common Names:** winged burning bush, winged euonymus, burning bush, burning bush euonymus, wahoo, winged spindle-tree

**Native Origin:** Asia to central China; introduced into U.S. around 1860 as an ornamental shrub

**Description:** A deciduous bushy shrub in the bittersweet family (*Celastraceae*) that grows to 15 to 20 feet tall and equally as wide. It is multi-stemmed with a broad closed crown. The green to brown stems have two to four prominent corky wings. The elliptic leaves are simple, opposite or sub-opposite, 1 to 3 inches long and 1/2 to 1 1/4 inches wide and have fine toothed margins. The leaves turn a bright red in the fall before dropping. Small green inconspicuous flowers have 4-petals and occur from May to early June. Small smooth red-orange fruits appear as stemmed pairs in leaf axils and turn purple in fall.

**Habitat:** It can be found in open woods, forests, pastures, prairies, and roadsides. It is very adaptable to a variety of soils, including being pH adaptable, performing best in well drained soils and poorest in waterlogged soils. It grows well in full shade and full sun but shows stress in soils subject to drought.



**Distribution:** This species is reported from states shaded on Plants Database map. It is reported invasive in CT, DE, IN, KY, MA, MD, MO, NH, NJ, OH, PA, RI, TN, VA, WI, and WV.

**Ecological Impacts:** It has been widely planted as an ornamental shrub for its spectacular red autumn foliage and along roadsides for its tolerance to salt. It may spread by seed from where it is used as an ornamental shrub. It colonizes by root suckers and spreads by animal-dispersed seeds. It shades out native herbs and crowds out native shrubs. The shrub may become a troublesome plant because of the ease with which seeds are spread, the readiness of germination, the adaptability to various soils, and tolerance of full shade.

## Control and Management:



- **Manual-** Hand-pull seedlings up to 2 feet tall; cut or dig out larger plants; root systems can be removed with a spading fork or pull with a weed wrench; ground out stump and paint with glyphosate immediately after cutting
- **Chemical-** It can be effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate, imazapyr, or triclopyr. Cut stumps can be sprayed or painted with glyphosate. Follow label and state requirements.

**References:** [www.forestimages.org](http://www.forestimages.org), <http://plants.usda.gov>, [www.nps.gov/plants/alien](http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien), Czarapata, Elizabeth J. Invasive Plants of the Upper Midwest, An Illustrated Guide to their Identification and Control, 2005 p. 90-91, [www.vnps.org/invasive/invfseual.htm](http://www.vnps.org/invasive/invfseual.htm), [www.invasive.org](http://www.invasive.org)