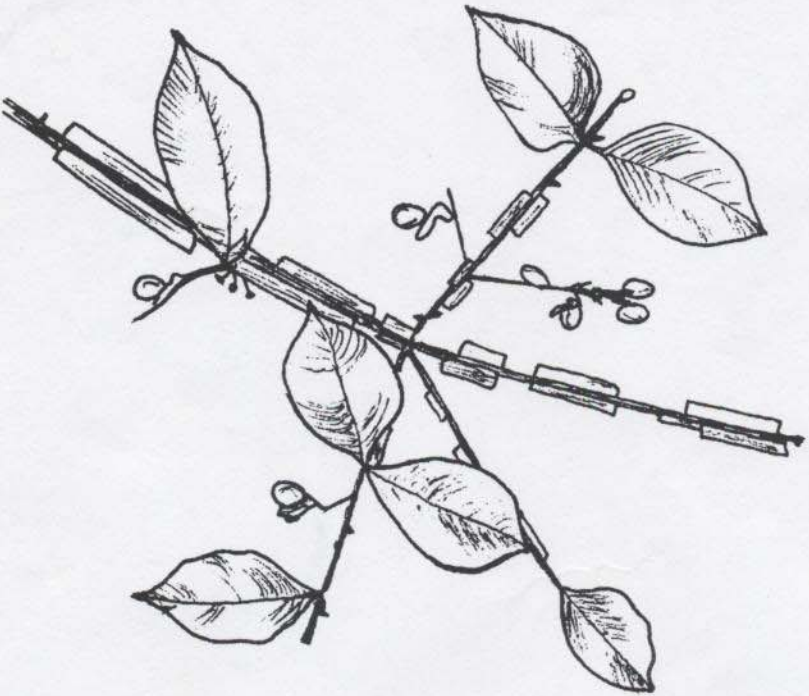


# Invasive Alert

## Burning Bush

*Euonymus alatus*



### Descriptions:

Burning Bush, aka Winged Euonymus, is a somewhat vase-shaped shrub with conspicuous, corky winged stems and abundant elliptical leaves up to 2 inches long with toothed margins that turn flaming orange red in autumn. Although its small green flowers are not obvious in the spring, the smooth purplish fruits in the fall are abundant.

### History:

Imported from Asia in the 1860s Burning Bush has been used extensively as a foundation planting, as hedges, and along highways. It is also widely used as an ornamental for the home, and therefore it, and many cultivars, are readily available at most nurseries.

### The Problem:

Burning Bush is less obvious as an invader than Japanese Knotweed or Autumn Olive, but perhaps more insidious. Unlike many exotic shrubs, it can grow and reproduce in either full sun or deep shade and has begun to invade undisturbed forests. The copious number of berries are eaten by birds who disperse the seeds throughout the landscape. Eventually, between the shade produced by its dense foliage and the impenetrable mat formed by the roots, most other species are unable to survive underneath Burning Bush shrubs. It ultimately replaces our native vegetation.

### Control:

Primary control is pulling and digging out of individual plants. Herbicide applications and foliar sprayings in early summer may be necessary if large populations have become established.

### Alternatives:

Blueberry bushes produce the same brilliant red in the fall, and many other species such as Oakleaf Hydrangea produce beautiful color and structural interest all year round.

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