

Euonymus alatus

Invasive to Maine

Burning Bush
Winged Spindle

Upland
Forests, Fields, and Developed Areas













Leaves



Leslie Mehrhoff, IPANE



Look for leaves that are 2-7 cm long, 1-4 cm wide, dark green in summer and red in fall. Leaves are oval, taper at both ends, and are oppositely arranged. The edges of the leaves are finely and sharply serrated (toothed).

LEAF ARRANGEMENT	LEAF TYPE	LEAF/LEAFLET SHAPE	LEAF/LEAFLET EDGE
 ALTERNATE	 SIMPLE	 PALMATE	 SMOOTH
 OPPOSITE	 COMPOUND-PALMATE	 OVAL	 TOOTHED
 WHORLED	 COMPOUND-PINNATE	 ROUND	 WAVY

Plant



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Look for a large shrub up to 2.5 meters (8.2 feet) tall and often wider than it is tall. Burning bush is a perennial (living three or more years) plant.

Stem



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Look for multiple stems (two or more stems growing from the roots). There are usually 2-4 broad, corky wings along the gray-brown branches, but not always.

Seasonal Change



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Look for bright red leaves in the fall. Flowers appear from late April to June and have four greenish-yellow petals. The red fruit appear from September to October.

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Similar Species

Euonymus atropurpureus (Wahoo) is also called burning bush because it has leaves that turn red in the fall. Differences between the two include that the Wahoo has larger leaves than *E. alatus* and Wahoo leaves have fine hairs on their underside which *E. alatus* leaves do not.

Fun Fact

This shrub was introduced as an ornamental shrub around 1860 and is commonly planted around highways, malls, post offices, and private homes. Through its use as a popular shrub it was first introduced into this area and now it is seen growing wild in fields and forests.