

Burning Bush or *Euonymus alatus* (“winged euonymus”) in autumn is an eye-catching red-leaved bush. It was brought from northeastern Asia to North America in the 1860s as an ornamental plant but has escaped from gardens and spread throughout New England. It spreads quickly by producing lots of seeds that are eaten by birds and other wildlife.

Unfortunately, our insects and deer do not recognize it as edible, its roots become thick and impenetrable, and it outcompetes native plants.

- Type: deciduous shrub
- Height: 4 feet to up to 20 feet tall
- Habitat: Forest edges, fields, disturbed areas, shrublands
- Leaves: 2 inches long, smooth, tapered, dark green until fall then pink to purplish
- Flowers: small, greenish yellow with 4 petals (May-early June)
- Fruit: showy pink capsules that split to reveal fleshy orange seeds (Sept-Oct)

Please help manage Burning Bush!

What to Do:

- Pull small bushes out by hand
- Get all the roots!
- Cut, pull, or mow plants before seeds mature in July-August
- Cut stumps; cover & tie tightly; check for growth a few times/year
- Bag or burn/dry out on site to avoid spreading to uninfested areas
- Revisit all sites annually until none appear

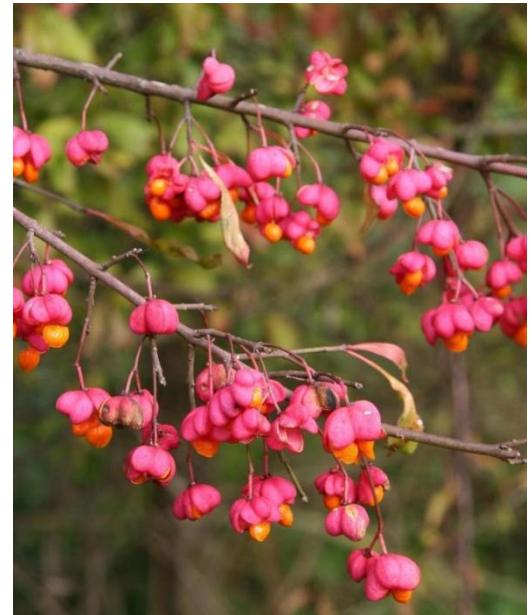


Photo: *Euonymus* fruits (VTInvasives.org)



More information:

Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Vermont forbid the sale & distribution of *euonymus alatus*

<https://vtinvasives.org/invasive/burning-bush-or-winged-euonymus>

<https://www.ecolandscaping.org/04/landscape-challenges/invasive-plants/winged-euonymus-an-exotic-invasive-plant-fact-sheet/>

Contact Us: Was this information helpful? Need more help? LaurelACopeland@gmail.com or LesleyPollitt@gmail.com or call Laurel at (802) 368-2439.

Photo: *Euonymus* in Halifax (Laurel Copeland)