

WINGED BURNING BUSH

[*Euonymus alatus* (Thunb.) Sieb.]
EUAL13



UGA2307066

Habit: Shrub typically to 2.5 m (8 ft)^{10,20} or possibly 7 m (23 ft) and equal in spread^{15,5}; size depends on cultivar of which there are at least 10⁵.

Reproduction: By seed^{10,20,15} and stem cuttings, success greater with the addition of the plant hormone IBA^{3,5,21}; possibly by root suckers¹⁸, though not confirmed in horticultural literature.

Leaves: Opposite, subsessile, elliptic to obovate, to 8 cm (3 ⁷/₁₆ in) long, sharply serrulate; upper surface dark green, turning bright red in autumn; deciduous^{10,15,20}; may be downy beneath^{15,5}.

Stems: Opposite with 2-4 conspicuous corky wings^{10,5,20,15} that run the length of the stem²¹ and apparently serve no function²; corky wings may not be present or as pronounced on the “Compactus” cultivar⁴.

Flowers: Small, 6-8 mm (~¼ in) wide, inconspicuous yellow-green flowers with four petals; April to June^{15,5}; stamens are opposite the petals and very short¹⁰.

Fruits/Seeds: Fruit smooth, purplish; 1-4-lobed capsule^{10,15}; 3-5 locules with 1-6 seeds per locule; fruit matures September-October at which time the fruit lobes split revealing the orange aril^{15,10,20}, releasing seeds through January¹⁸; cold moist stratification of the seeds is required for 1-3 months⁵; seeds are dispersed by birds⁵.

WINGED BURNING BUSH



UGA2307068



UGA2307067

Euonymus alatus (Thunb.) Sieb.

Habitat: Indigenous to northeastern Asia and central China^{10,20,5}; escaped cultivation and established in open areas, such as prairies¹ and woodlands^{6,19,8,9,5,7}; appears to prefer sunny conditions, though it does well in deep shade with no effect on fall's red foliage; prefers well-drained soils but is sensitive to drought; USDA plant hardiness zones 4-9⁵, with a possible preference for the more northern of these zones due to dormancy requirements¹².

Comments: Used extensively in ornamental plantings; the "Compatus" cultivar is among the most popular^{5,4}; tends to grow slowly and in short spurts⁵; may dominate the understory of mature forests⁶; possible medicinal properties include cytotoxic activity against tumor cells^{14,17} and treatment against stomach aches¹¹; a few pathogens, such as two-spotted-mites^{16,5} and nematodes may minimally affect it⁵; dieback may be caused by the fungus *Whetzelinia sclerotiorum*; overwintering host of the bean aphid (*Aphis fabae*)²².

Similar Native Species: Wahoo (*E. atropurpureus*), autumn leaf color is yellow; strawberry bush (*E. americanus*), flowers are 5-merous¹⁰.