

Winged Burning Bush

SHRUBS



***Euonymus alatus* (Thunb.) Sieb. EUAL8**

Synonyms: wahoo, winged euonymus, burning bush

Plant. Deciduous, wing-stemmed, bushy shrub to 12 feet (4 m) in height, multiple stemmed and much branched. Canopy broad and leafy. Small and obovate leaves green and turning bright scarlet to purplish red in fall. Paired purple fruit in fall.

Stem. Four corky wings or ridges appearing along young lime-green squarish twigs and becoming wider with age. Numerous opposite branches, with bases encircled by corky rings. Larger branches and bark becoming light gray.

Leaves. Opposite, obovate, and thin, only 1 to 2 inches (2.5 to 5 cm) long and 0.4 to 0.8 inch (1 to 2 cm) wide. Tips tapering to an acute point. Margins finely crenate. Both surfaces smooth and hairless. Dark green with whitish midvein above and light green beneath turning bright crimson to purplish red in fall. Petioles 0.04 to 0.16 inches (1 to 4 mm) long.

Flowers. April to May. Axillary pairs of small flowers at the ends of a Y-shaped 1-inch (2.5-cm) stem. Flowers inconspicuous, 0.2 to 0.3 inch (6 to 8 mm) across, greenish-yellow, five-lobed, pistil elongating as fruit forms.

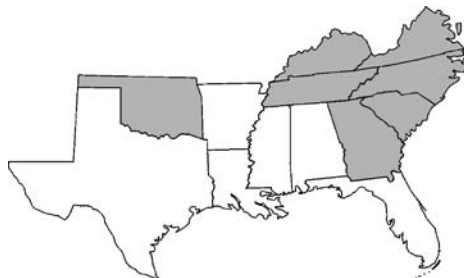
Fruit and seeds. August to January. Dangling paired (or single) reddish capsules in leaf axils turning purple and splitting in fall to reveal an orange fleshy-covered seed.

Ecology. Shade tolerant. Colonizes by root suckers and spreads by animal-dispersed seeds.

Resembles the larger leaved species of blueberry, *Vaccinium* spp., but their leaves are alternate. **Possibly resembles** rusty blackhaw, *Viburnum rufidulum* Raf., which also has opposite leaves, but distinguished by their larger size and leathery texture. Dormant twigs **may resemble** winged elm, *Ulmus alata* Michx., and sweetgum, *Liquidambar styraciflua* L., which are usually two-winged instead of four-winged.

History and use. Introduced from northeast Asia in the 1860s. Widely planted as an ornamental and for highway beautification.

States with suspected infestations are shown in gray.

**Winged Burning Bush****2042**