

# Winged burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*)



- Medium-sized shrub with winged stems
- Habitats it invades:
  - Forests
  - Roadsides
- Status
  - Wisconsin: Restricted
  - Regulated in: MN





# Winged burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*)

## *Leaves opposite, simple*

- 1-2" long, tapered at both ends, margins toothed
- Stems have wings along their sides
- Foliage is bright red in fall

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# Winged burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*)



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## *Flower/fruit*

- Flowers with 4 greenish yellow petals
- Flowers are borne in small clusters; April-June
- Fruit is a capsule that opens to expose red seeds.



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# Winged burning bush look alike

Winged burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*) may be confused with other shrub and tree-like *Euonymus* species in Wisconsin.



Winged burning bush (left) has distinct corky wings on twigs

Eastern wahoo (right) has fine corky ridges, but not wings



European spindle-tree (right) has orange seeds, compared to the red seeds of winged burning bush and eastern wahoo.



Species	Stems	Leaves	Fruits
Winged burning bush ( <i>Euonymus alatus</i> )	Branchlets weakly 4-sided; <b>twigs with distinct corky wings</b> on at least 2 sides; older bark grey-brown, splits to show green inner tissue; 6-12' tall	1-3" long, $\frac{3}{4}$ - 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide; usually widest at or above middle, sharp point at tip, edges finely serrated; <b>red in fall</b>	$\frac{1}{2}$ " capsule initially green then turns pinkish then red; 4-lobed, but not all lobes may develop; capsule splits to show 1-4 <b>bright red fleshy seeds</b>
Eastern wahoo ( <i>Euonymus atropurpureus</i> )	Branches weakly 4-sided with lines of pale, <b>corky tissue along the angles, but not forming wings</b> ; older bark grey to grey-brown; 6-20' tall	2-6" long, 1-2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " wide; widest at or near the middle, sharp point at tip, finely toothed; <b>yellow in fall</b>	$\frac{1}{2}$ " capsule, initially green then turns pinkish then red; 4-lobed but not all lobes may develop; splits to show 1-4 bright red fleshy seeds
European spindle-tree ( <i>Euonymus europaeus</i> )	Greenish-red stems; older bark grey-brown; 12-30' tall	1-3" long; ovate-shaped, serrated edges; yellow to yellow-green to a <b>reddish-purple in fall</b>	$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ " capsule, turns pinkish red; opens to reveal <b>orange fleshy seeds</b>