

Winged burning bush look alikes

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 fruits, compared to the red fruits of winged burning bush and eastern wahoo.



Species	Stems	Leaves	Flowers and Fruits
Winged burning bush (<i>Euonymus alatus</i>)	Branchlets weakly 4-sided; twigs with distinct corky wings 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; red in fall	$\frac{1}{2}$ " capsule initially green then turns pinkish then red; 4-lobed, but not all lobes may develop; capsule splits to show 1-4 bright red fleshy fruits
Eastern wahoo (<i>Euonymus atropurpureus</i>)	Branches weakly 4-sided with lines of pale, corky tissue along the angles, but not forming wings ; 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; yellow in fall	$\frac{1}{2}$ " capsule, initially green then turns pinkish then red; 4-lobed but not all lobes may develop; splits to show 1-4 bright red fleshy fruits
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 reddish-purple in fall	$\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{3}{4}$ " capsule, turns pinkish red; opens to reveal orange fleshy fruits