

## *Euonymus alatus*, Burning Bush

This plant is native to northeastern Asia. In the summer, the leaves are green, but in the Autumn the leaves turn a bright red – accounting for its prominence in the ornamental industry for a long period of time. The species is currently restricted in New York State and invades many woodland habitats.

**Description:** This deciduous shrub forms in a rounded branching pattern resulting in a sort of flat top when un-trimmed. It can grow 10-20 feet high, but has a slow growth rate. The elliptical leaves are oppositely arranged and typically three inches long. Small red/purple fruit can be found growing in capsules under the foliage, ripening in September. The stem is unique in that it is green with brownish wings running along the stem.

**Control:** One of the first things to do to control the spread of burning bush is to stop planting it. This plant is commonly used as decorative foliage and can often be seen on the market when looking for shrubs. Furthermore, mechanical removal tactics can be used. Small seedlings can be pulled from the grounds and bigger bushes can be cut repeatedly or treated with herbicides.

**Look-a-likes:** Burning Bush looks similar to the larger leaved Blueberry species (*Vaccinium* spp.) but the leaves on blueberries are alternately arranged. The plant may also resemble a winged elm (*Ulmus alata*).

**Flower Time and Description:** Burning Bush blooms in late May-June with small yellow/green flowers which mature into little red fruits in July-October. These fruits are bird dispersed, often moving burning bush far away from its parent plant.

