**Euonymus alatus**

**Burning Bush**

**Winged Spindle**

**Leaves**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LEAF ARRANGEMENT</th>
<th>LEAF TYPE</th>
<th>LEAF/LEAFLET SHAPE</th>
<th>LEAF/LEAFLET EDGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ALTERNATE</td>
<td>SIMPLE</td>
<td>PALMATE</td>
<td>SMOOTH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OPPOSITE</td>
<td>COMPOUND-PALMATE</td>
<td>OVAL</td>
<td>TOOTHED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHORLED</td>
<td>COMPOUND-PINNATE</td>
<td>ROUND</td>
<td>WAVY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Look for leaves that are 2-7 cm long, 1-4 cm wide, dark green in summer and red in fall. Leaves are oval, taper at both ends, and are oppositely arranged. The edges of the leaves are finely and sharply serrated (toothed).

**Plant**

Look for a large shrub up to 2.5 meters (8.2 feet) tall and often wider than it is tall. Burning bush is a perennial (living three or more years) plant.

**Stem**

Look for multiple stems (two or more stems growing from the roots). There are usually 2-4 broad, corky wings along the gray-brown branches, but not always.

**Seasonal Change**

Look for bright red leaves in the fall. Flowers appear from late April to June and have four greenish-yellow petals. The red fruit appear from September to October.

**Similar Species**

Euonymus atropurpureus (Wahoo) is also called burning bush because it has leaves that turn red in the fall. Differences between the two include that the Wahoo has larger leaves than E. alatus and Wahoo leaves have fine hairs on their underside which E. alatus leaves do not.

**Fun Fact**

This shrub was introduced as an ornamental shrub around 1860 and is commonly planted around highways, malls, post offices, and private homes. Through its use as a popular shrub it was first introduced into this area and now it is seen growing wild in fields and forests.

**Invasive to Maine**

**Upland**

**Forests, Fields, and Developed Areas**

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Species Card Courtesy Of: Rebecca Martin