

Large Shrubs (8—15')
Deciduous

Map #27

Burning Bush

(*Euonymus alatus*)
Family: *Celastraceae*



Purple-leaf Wintercreeper

Leaves: The 1-3" leaves are simple, oval in shape with fine serrations along the margins. Fall color of the burning bush is an excellent and consistent pinkish red to bright red. A number of cultivars have been selected for outstanding red fall color.

Buds: opposite to slightly alternate (sub-opposite); green and brown varicolored, 3/16" long, shingled, oval and turn brown-red at maturity. The lateral buds are found between breaks in the wings along the stem.

Stems: 4 prominent gray-brown wings that often extend 1/4" from the green stems, the branches of this species make an excellent identification characteristic. The prominent wings also add to the winter interest of the plant as they catch considerable quantities of snow.

Bark: two-toned gray and smooth.

Flowers: small and yellow-green, the 4-petaled flowers of this species are lost amongst the leaves and are not ornamentally important. They are usually borne in late May.

Fruits: a red capsule with an orange-red aril. The capsule displays on some plants can be slightly showy but are usually not long lasting.

Habit: rounded to broad-rounded and quite uniform; branches often held horizontally to stems giving it a tiered effect. Shears and prunes well. May be trained to a small tree form.

Culture: sun or partial shade (in shade, fall color is watermelon pink), prefers moist, well drained soils, intolerant of wet soil and transplants easily; will tolerate heavy pruning and makes a nice clipped hedge. Not bothered by euonymus scale nor tent caterpillar.

Cultivars: 'Compatus' - dwarf form; more upright habit; wings reduced to corky ridges; fall color a shocking scarlet.

Miscellaneous: Also called Winged Euonymus. It is on the "long list" of invasive species of the WIDNR.

Related species: Purple-leaf Wintercreeper (*Euonymus fortunei* 'Coloratus') (#28) evergreen clinging vine with aerial rootlets used as a groundcover, grows to a height of 18" with dark green summer foliage and purplish-red winter foliage, seldom flowers or fruits.

'Vegetus' Wintercreeper—shiny, bright green leaves year-'round; climbs on any support with aerial roots—even on itself to form a hedge. Very susceptible to scale—limits use-



Dwarf Burning Bush



Sheared into a formal hedge



'Vegetus' Wintercreeper



Purple-leaf Wintercreeper



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