
Burning Bush

Euonymus alatus



This shrub, 15–20' high and wide, is considered **severely invasive** in Maine. It tolerates sun and full shade, and has a densely matted root system that discourages undergrowth.

- Leaves are 1–3" long, opposite each other on the stem, with finely serrated edges. Leaves appear early in spring. Fall color is bright red.
 - Flowers are in small clusters, light yellow to green, in late spring.
 - Stems are green with prominent brown corky ridges along their lengths.
 - Berries are red or red and orange, surrounded by covers that split open in September and October.
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HOW TO CONTROL:

- Pull or dig monthly before or during flowering, spring–September. Expect re-sprouts, and diligently keep pulling.
- **Large bushes:** Cut plants down to a stump in fall or winter, then wrap with thick plastic or burlap and secure tightly. Monitor and cut back new growth.
- If beyond 25' from water, cut stems to 1' during late summer or fall when over 40°F, then immediately paint cut stem with 20-25% glyphosate or triclopyr. If leaf spray is necessary on re-sprouts, apply 2-3% glyphosate July–September **in humid weather**.

Sources

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https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive_plants/euonymus.htm;

<https://gobotany.nativeplanttrust.org/species/euonymus/alatus/>

Controls

https://www.maine.gov/dacf/mnap/features/invasive_plants/euonymus.htm;

<https://vtinvasives.org/invasive/burning-bush-or-winged-euonymus>
