

Family: Celastraceae, Spindle-tree family

*Euonymus alatus*

Burning bush, Winged Euonymus

As fall approaches the burning bush takes centre stage with a glorious display of crimson foliage. After the leaves fall it also sports attractive red berries. The plant is a small to medium sized shrub. It can be trained as a standard or left as is. It makes a nice hedge and is good as part of a foundation planting. This shrub is hardy to Zone 3.

It prefers well drained soil and a sunny location. The corky ridges on the bark are the source of the “winged” name. It does not seem to suffer as badly from scale as some other members of the euonymus family.

These are tough plants. In my garden about fifteen years ago I had one. During an early spring thaw it was girdled by mice and subsequently died. I didn't pay much attention for a few years, then I began to notice red foliage as the plant had reestablished itself. There are two remaining after I dug several as a donation to a plant sale.

'Compactus' is a recommended cultivar.

