

CENTRAL JERSEY INVASIVE SPECIES STRIKE TEAM

Invasive Plant Fact Sheet

Winged burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*)

Also called: Winged euonymus, winged wahoo, winged spindle-tree



Family name: Staff-tree family (Celastraceae)

Native range: Asia

General: Deciduous shrub up to 8 feet tall, sometimes taller, with corky winged branches. The shrub has a wide, spreading form.

Leaves: Opposite, finely toothed, elliptical. Leaves turn bright red in autumn.

Flowers: Greenish-yellow, four petalled, arranged in clusters of 1-3 flowers, appearing in April through June.

Fruit: Small, reddish, purple or orange, 4 lobed. Ripening in September through October.

Look-alikes: None.

Habitat: Forests, forest edges, open woods, stream banks.

Threats to native habitats: Burning bush can form large thickets that displace native plants and prevent successional growth of native trees and shrubs.

NJ Status: Burning bush is widespread. It is *highly threatening* to natural plant communities. All newly detected occurrences should be eradicated.

Commercial Availability: This invasive plant is widely planted for landscaping. Cultivars without wings are available and are also invasive. Native alternatives should be sought to replace burning bush in landscape plantings.



Sources: Forestry Images: Forest Health, Natural Resources & Silviculture Images: <http://www.forestryimages.org/http://nbii-nin.ciesin.columbia.edu/ipane/icat/browse.do?specield=20>
Rhoads, A.F. and T. Block. 2007. *Plants of Pennsylvania*. 2nd ed. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, PA. p. 522.



Central Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team (CJISST) is a regional cooperative effort to detect, map, and manage emerging populations of invasive species. This initiative is a partnership of state, county, and municipal agencies, conservation groups, and private citizens. To learn more, please contact us: **Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space**, (609) 730-1560, www.fohvos.org or **Upper Raritan Watershed Association**, (908) 234-1852, www.urwa.org.

