

Invasive Species

Taxonomic Name:
Euonymus alatus

Common Name: *Burning bush*

Physical Description:

Growth Type: *Euonymus alatus* is a deciduous shrub that can grow up to 15 feet high and 15 feet wide, although its growth is rather slow. There are many branches and is therefore quite dense and twiggy.

Leaves: The leaves are 1 – 3 inches long and about half as wide. They have very small serrations along the edges. The surface of the leaf is smooth and dark green, that changes to a bright red or burgundy-red in the fall depending upon how much sun the plant is getting. The leaves are opposite each other on the stem.

Flowers: Flowers are 1/4 - 1/3 inch across with four greenish-yellow petals and located in the leaf axils. They are hidden by the foliage and are not showy.

Fruit: The small fruit dangles by itself or in pairs within capsules. The fruit is a bright orange-scarlet color and persists after the leaves drop in fall.

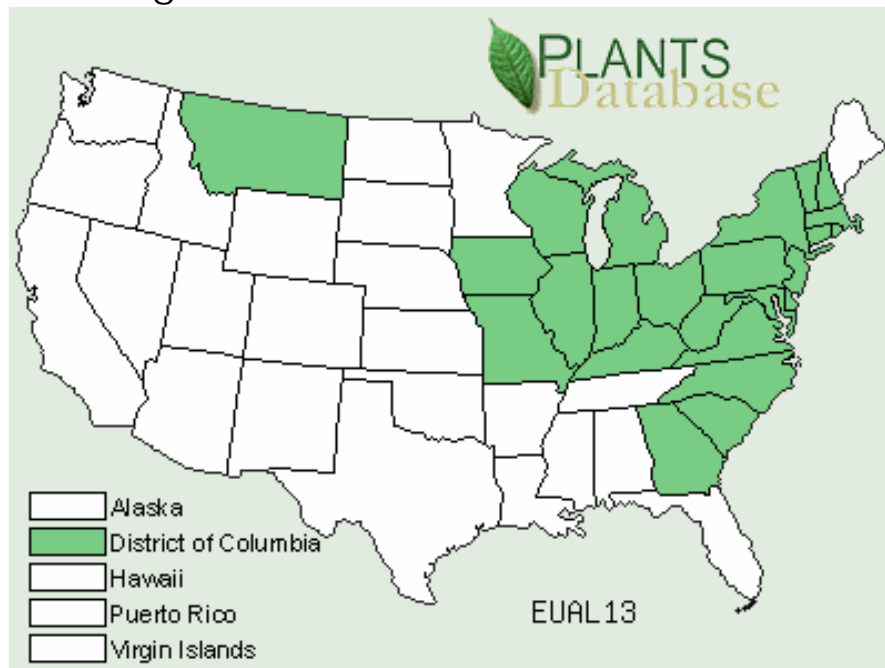


Bark: *As a young plant the bark is light green but turns to light grey when the branches become larger. There are four prominent ridges (wings) on twigs that grow as the plant becomes older.*



Invasive nature: *The seeds of Euonymus alatus are spread by animals. This species is becoming a problem in understory areas of forests, displacing native vegetation.*

Coverage Area:



Sources:

<http://www.invasive.org/eastern/srs/WBB.html>

http://www.hcs.ohio-state.edu/hcs/TMI/Plantlist/eu_alata.html

<http://plants.usda.gov/java/profile?symbol=EUAL13>

<http://botit.botany.wisc.edu/courses/img/bot/401/Magnoliophyta/Magnoliopsida/Rosidae/Celastraceae/Euonymus/>