Winged burningbush

Euonymus alatus

Description

To this day, it is still used in landscaping as an ornamental.

Habit

Deciduous; growing up to 15-20 ft in height and in width; multiple stemmed with a broad closed crown; angular branching.

Leaves

Elliptic leaves are simple, opposite or sub-opposite; 1-3 in long and 1/2 to 1 1/4 in wide; finely toothed margins. Leaves turn a bright red in the fall before dropping.
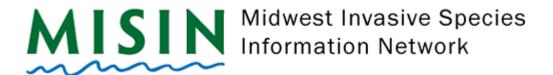
Stems

Green to brown in color; multiple; angular; two to four corky ridges or "wings" often form along the length of young stems.

Flowers

Small, inconspicuous, greenish yellow in color, 4 petals, lay flat against leaves; blooms May

through June.

Fruits and Seeds

Red to purple capsules, smooth, appear in pairs in leaf axils, turn purple in the fall, split open to reveal orange fleshy seeds, appear from September to October.

Habitat

Native to Asia, Japan and central Asia. Found in open woods, forests, pastures, prairies, and roadsides.

Reproduction

Expands locally through vegetative reproduction and to new areas through bird dispersed seeds.

Similar

Native strawberry bush (Euonymus americana), also called "hearts-a-bustin", which has green non-winged stems. Also, saplings of native sweetgum (Liquidambar styraciflua) with winged stems may be mistake for this species.

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Hand-pull seedlings up to 2 feet tall; cut or dig out larger plants; root systems can be removed with a spading fork or pull with a weed wrench; ground out stump and paint with glyphosate immediately. Can be effectively controlled using any of several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate, imazapyr, or triclopyr.

Credits

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