

# **European spindletree**

# Euonymus europaeus

## Description

Popular ornamental plant due to its bright pink or purple fruits and attractive autumn coloring. Fruit is poisonous but has been used medicinally.

#### Habit

Large deciduous shrub or small tree that can reach a height of 30 feet. Rounded in form with a fast growth rate.

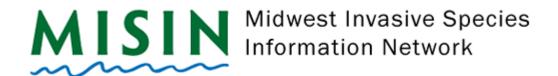
#### Leaves

Opposite, simple, elliptical, 2.5-4 inches long, finely serrated, long pointed, green above and paler, and possibly pubescent below.

#### **Stems**

Thin, greenish-brown to reddish brown in color, shallow longitudinal splits; becoming irregularly shreddy-ridged with age. Twigs are slender, green turning brown with age, may be 4 sided, leaf scars are light brown and obvious against green twig; buds are green and sharp pointed.





#### **Flowers**

Perfect, inconspicuous (1/3 in. - 1/2 in. across), 4 greenish/yellow-white petals with purple anthers, appearing in late spring in multiple branched clusters.

#### **Fruits and Seeds**

Dry capsules that are lobed and 0.5 in. to 0.75 in. across. Showy pinkish/red/purple in color with red/orange seeds that mature in the fall.

#### Habitat

Native to Europe and western Asia. Can be found in man-made or disturbed habitats, floodplains, forest edges, shrublands or thickets.

### Reproduction

By cuttings or by seed.

#### Similar

Winged burning bush (Euonymus alatus).

#### **Credits**

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