

DEDHAM'S LEAST WANTED!

Burning Bush, *Euonymus alatus*



Corky wings along stem.



Foliage changes to shades of red and purple in autumn.

Origin: Burning bush, or winged euonymus is a shrub native to eastern Asia, central and northern China, Japan, and Korea. It was introduced as a landscaping plant as early as the 1860's.

Identification / Habitat: Burning bush is a deciduous shrub standing five to ten feet tall with approximately the same width. Mature plants may grow up to twenty feet high. This shrub is multi stemmed and has an opposite branching pattern. Stems are covered in two to four inch **corky wings**, which is a great way to identify this species. It has oval leaves, 1 to 3 inches long that turn a brilliant red in the fall. This plant is able to grow in full sun as well as full shade giving it the advantage over natives. Growing conditions are highly adaptable and but it prefers well drained soils.

Dispersal: The seeds of this plant are eaten by birds then by passing through their digestive tract are viable. Seeds dispersed this way germinate easily and spread the infestation to other areas.

Problems: This shrub can form dense thickets that can prevent native species from growing. The seeds are also well liked by various bird species and can spread to areas that are not yet affected. They are hard to control because of the large amount of seed that are produced annually. The shrub was widely planted along highways and in developments for its colorful foliage in the fall.

Control: Young seedlings, with stem 2 inches or less in diameter, can be dug up and removed as long as care is taken to remove the entire root system as the plant can regrow from just a root fragment.

Any removal within 100 feet of wetland resource areas, including certified vernal pools, or within 200 feet of a perennial stream may require approval from the Dedham Conservation Commission. Please contact the Dedham Conservation Department *before* you begin!