

# AlterNATIVES to Burning Bush!

*Euonymus alatus*

## What is Burning Bush?

Also called Winged Burning Bush, this is a popular landscape shrub known for its fall color. Brought to the US from northeast Asia.

## Why Shouldn't I Plant It?

While attractive, birds spread the seeds of burning bush from landscaped yards to natural areas.

Like other invasive shrubs (honeysuckle, autumn olive),

burning bush seeds grow into large and dense thickets, outcompeting native plants for space and light. They invade a variety of habitats, even heavily shaded woodlands. Burning Bush can further colonize areas via root suckers, degrading wildlife habitat and offering little value in return.

## Why Should I Choose a Native Alternative?

Native plants are not only beautiful, but also benefit birds and other wildlife. Unlike non-native species, these plants support multiple pollinators and insects, providing food for Indiana birds. Also, if spread to nearby natural areas, natives plants don't harm the ecosystems.

## For More Information

- Indiana Native Plant Society: [www.indiananativeplants.org](http://www.indiananativeplants.org)
- Indiana Invasive Species Council: [www.indianainvasivespecies.org](http://www.indianainvasivespecies.org)
- Local SWCDs: [iaswcd.org/contact-your-local-swcd/](http://iaswcd.org/contact-your-local-swcd/)
- **Additional native alternatives include:** Fragrant Sumac (*Rhus aromatica*), Virginia Sweetspire (*Itea virginica*), American Hazelnut (*Corylus Americana*), Strawberry Bush (*Euonymus americana*), and Blackhaw Viburnum (*Viburnum prunifolium*).

Created by the **Davies-Dubois-Martin Invasive Plant Partnership**, with funding from a Clean Water Indiana grant.

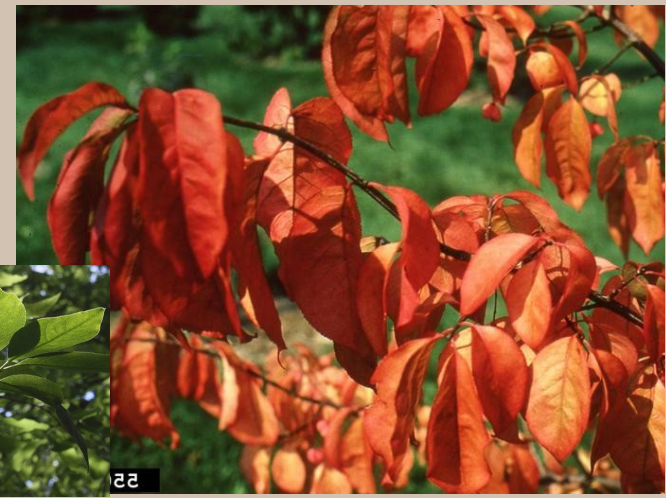
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## Eastern Wahoo

(*Euonymus atropurpureus*)

- Native relative of burning bush
- Attractive red berries and fall color
- Tolerates shade and a wide range of soil types



## Black & Red Chokeberry

(*Aronia melanocarpa*; *A. arbutifolia*)

- Season long interest (spring flowers, summer berries, fall foliage)
- Good for hedges and rain gardens



## Ninebark

(*Physocarpus opulifolius*)

- Several cultivars, including with purple leaves
- Tolerates a wide range of sites, even clay and rocky soil; full sun to part shade
- Showy white or pink flowers

