



Flowering Shrubs: Burning Bush

Number 045

March 23, 2017



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Burning Bush is Crimson in Fall

Euonymus alatus is best known for its brilliant crimson foliage seen in the fall. It is a hardy deciduous shrub that can grow to a height and width of 15 feet. This bush is native to Eastern Russia, China, Japan, and Korea. Its hardiness zones are 4-8. It is slow growing with a rounded form and is used in borders, hedges, or in landscape plantings.

Varieties to Plant

There are two main varieties: *Euonymus alatus* that can reach 15 feet in height and width, and a dwarf variety (*Euonymus alatus compactus*) that can get to be 8 – 10 feet high and wide.

Preferred Conditions

Burning Bush grows in almost any site and soil conditions, except poorly drained soils, with minimal care. It grows best in full sun to partial shade and prefers slightly acidic (6.1-6.5) well drained soil. It is drought tolerant.

Care and Pruning

No special care is required for the burning bush. The natural shape of the bush is appealing. However, one of the challenges with Burning Bushes is that they are huge when they are mature. They are very tolerant of severe pruning in the spring to keep the size down and remove any broken or damaged branches. They can also be turned into small trees by removing all of the lower branches. No matter how they are pruned, they will keep growing.

Problems you Might Encounter

Birds eat the berries and inadvertently plant the seeds in your garden. In rich soils, even dropped berries may sprout and become new plants. The bush has few pest or disease problems except for some leaf fungal issues that can be minimized by limiting overhead watering.

Learn more about Burning Bush [here](#)>