

Winged Euonymus

Also called burning bush

(*Euonymus alata*)

This shrub gets its two common names from two distinct characteristics. The stems of the plant are encased in a stiff, corky covering that looks like wings. In fall, the foliage color is so brilliant that the plant appears to be on fire. Plants generally grow 7 to 10 feet tall, except for the variety Compacta which reaches 4 to 6 feet. The stems are rigid, in a vase-like shape, and particularly decorative after the leaves fall. Flowers are inconspicuous.

Soil: Not fussy about soil.

Light: Full sun to heavy shade

Zone: 4

Comments

The winged euonymus makes an excellent hedge, with very little pruning required. The stems also make interesting material for arrangements. A close relative is the evergreen euonymus (*E. japonica*), with green or variegated foliage.