

Winter Creeper

Euonymus fortunei

Description -

- Evergreen vine that can form a dense groundcover. Can grow as a shrub up to 3 feet in height, or climb 40-70 foot vertical surfaces with the aid of aerial roots.
- 1 – 2 ½ inch long paired leaves are dark green, shiny and egg-shaped with finely toothed margins and whitish veins.
- Inconspicuous green-white 5-petaled flowers that bloom June to July.
- Fruits are pinkish to red capsules that split open to expose seeds adorned with a fleshy orange seed coat in fall.

Distribution - Scattered throughout the eastern United States.

Threat - Forms dense ground cover that eliminates native species from the understory. Impedes recruitment of canopy species. Can overtop trees and cause decreased vigor.

Control - Hand pulling for young infestations and grubbing work for sensitive areas where herbicide is not suitable; however, any plant stem left can resprout. For larger vines, immediately apply a 25% solution of glyphosate or triclopyr to cut stems. Foliar spray with a surfactant can also be effective on large populations.

Similar Plants - Periwinkle (*Vinca* spp.) also invasive, has glossy leaves and is evergreen. However, flowers are purple and leaf-shape is more elliptic.

Origin - Introduced from China as an ornamental groundcover.

Burning Bush

(winged euonymus, winged wahoo, winged spindle-tree)

Euonymus alatus

Description -

- Deciduous shrub with gray stems and corky wing-like ridges.
- Opposite leaves, elliptic with a tapered tip, have fine serrations on the margins.
- Leaves turn bright red color in fall.
- Flowers are small, yellowish green in color and inconspicuous in pairs at the tips of y-shaped stems.
- Smooth, purplish fruit are a half inch long and are present from September through October. Each fruit contains approximately four red to orange seeds.

Distribution - Found in most states in the eastern U.S. and the upper Midwest.

Threat - Can form dense thickets in natural woods and shade out native plants. It is also an adaptive plant, growing well in a wide range of soil types and pH levels. Spreads quickly by root suckers and from birds dispersing seeds.

Control - Small plants can be hand pulled. Larger plants can be cut and the stump surface sprayed with glyphosate. Foliar spray is also an option but most effective during early summer months.

Similar Plants - When dormant, twigs may resemble winged elm (*Ulmus alata*). Could also be confused with native strawberry bush (*Euonymus americana*).

Origin - Introduced from northeast Asia and promoted as an ornamental.

Bush Honeysuckles

Lonicera maackii , *L. morrowii* , *L. tatarica* , *L. x bella*

Description -

- Shrubs, ranging from 6 to 15 feet in height.
- Egg-shaped to oblong opposite leaves are 1- 2 ½ inches long; leafing out first in spring and persisting into late fall.
- Pairs of fragrant, tubular white to pink flowers in late spring.
- Fruits are red or orange berries containing many seeds.

Distribution - Introduced for use as ornamentals, and for wildlife food and cover. Bush Honeysuckles are found in a wide variety of habitats from the Central Great Plains to southern New England and south to Tennessee and North Carolina.

Threat - Aggressively forms dense shrub layer that crowds out native plant species. Can reduce tree regeneration and eliminate understory species due to deep shade cast by the dense thickets. Fruits are rich in carbohydrates but do not offer migrating birds the high-fat, nutrient-rich food sources needed for long flights. Increased nest predation has been attributed to branching structure and lack of thorns which enables predators easy access.

Control - Hand removal of seedlings or small plants may be useful for small populations; however any portion of root remaining can resprout. Foliar spray with a 2% glyphosate or triclopyr mixture where risk to non-target species is minimal. Air temperature should be above 65 degrees F. Or, cut stumps and immediately treat cut surface with a 25% solution of glyphosate or triclopyr.

Similar Plants - Coralberry (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*) has slender purple to brown twigs and the berries have a purple hue.

Origin - China, Asia and Russia. *L. x bella* is a hybrid of *L. morrowii* and *L. tatarica*.

Bush Honeysuckles



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