

BURNING BUSH

(EUNONYMUS ALATUS)

2019 Status in Maine:

Widespread. Severely invasive. Perennial deciduous shrub or small tree. Originates from Europe and Asia.

Identify

Leaves: Sub-opposite, elliptical or almost round, and toothed. Have arching veins and pointed tip.

Flowers: Small, 4 petaled, white to green. Occur in clusters where leaves meet stem. Bloom in June.

Fruit: Fruit is round and matures from green to glossy black in late summer.

Bark: Brownish gray. At the end of most twigs this plant has small spines.

Location

This plant is shade tolerant and can tolerate moist to well-drained soils. Can be found in forests, forest edges and open fields.

Parks of concern: Hinckley Park, Wainwright, Greenbelt

Problem

It can grow in dense thickets that shade out native plants. Seeds can spread long distances on animal fur. It has a long growing season and rapid growth rates that allow it to out-compete native plants.

Management

Small plants can be pulled when the soil is moist. Larger plants can be cut, but this must be done for several years as the plant can re-sprout. Care should be taken to dry or burn all plant parts before disposal.



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