

BURNING BUSH

invasive
fact sheet



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Burning bush invades Vermont's forests and fields. It is **easy to see in the fall** when its leaves turn bright red.

 burning bush

 yellow flower

 red fruit

 winged stem

 red fall foliage

 finely toothed, opposite leaves

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DID YOU KNOW?

Burning bush (*Euonymus alatus*) spreads from yards to forests and fields after birds consume the fruit and carry the seeds across long distances. Fruits left uneaten fall to the ground, creating a “seed shadow” around the plant’s base.



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Mechanical removal:

Hand pull: Any time of year when the ground is soft, especially after a rain, hand pull small plants by the base of the stem. Be sure to pull up the entire root system. Hang from a branch to prevent re-rooting. For larger plants, use a Weed Wrench™. Continue to monitor the area every year for new seedlings.

Cut stump: Cut plants back in the fall or winter. Wrap a few layers of burlap or thick plastic over the stump and tie tightly with twine or rope. Check covered stumps periodically and cut back any new growth.

Chemical removal:

Cut stump: Cut the plant 4 inches above the ground. Use a drip bottle to apply a 18-21% glyphosate solution to the stump within one hour of cutting. This is best done in late summer through winter when plants are transporting resources to their root systems.

Low volume foliar spray: This method is used for dense populations and best left to a contractor. In the fall, when native plants are losing their leaves, spray a 2% glyphosate solution on the entire leaf surface of the plant. In order to avoid drift to native plants, spray only on calm days.

Safe Chemical Application

- ✓ **Develop an Integrated Plant Management approach.** Use chemical control as only ONE piece of your prevention and management strategy.
- ✓ **The label found on the herbicide container is the law.** It indicates the concentrations to use, what protective clothing to wear, how to apply the product, and what environmental and human health hazards are associated with the chemical.
- ✓ **Use aquatic formulations within 10 feet of water.** You need a permit to apply herbicides in wetlands. You cannot apply herbicides within 100 feet of a well-head. Contact VT DEC at 802-241-3761 for more information.
- ✓ **You need to be certified to apply herbicides on land that you do not own.**
- ✓ **Hire a contractor to manage large infestations.** A good contractor will have the knowledge to help create an effective management plan. For a list of certified contractors, contact the VT Department of Agriculture at 802-828-3482.



Non-invasive Alternatives



highbush blueberry
Vaccinium corymbosum



fothergilla
Fothergilla major

red
chokeberry



*Aronia
arbutifolia*

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witch-
hazel



*Hamamelis
virginiana*

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