


# BURNING BUSH


invasive  
fact sheet




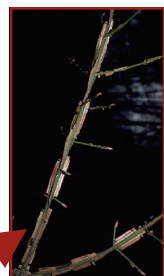
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Burning bush invades Vermont's forests and fields. It is **easy to see in the fall** when its leaves turn bright red.


 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

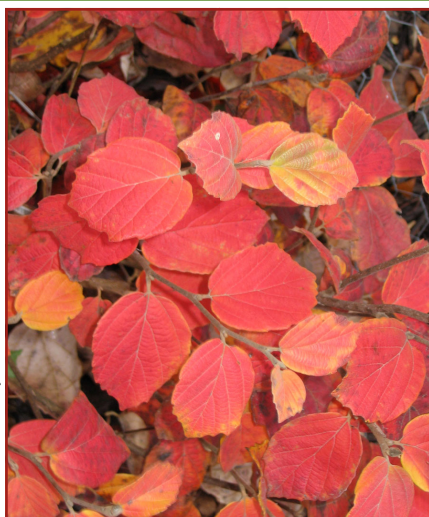
- ✓ **Develop an Integrated Plant Management approach.** Use chemical control as only ONE piece of your prevention and management strategy.
- ✓ **The label found on the herbicide container is the law.** It indicates the concentrations to use, what protective clothing to wear, how to apply the product, 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*



© Stefan Bloodworth/Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

witch-  
hazel

*Hamamelis  
virginiana*



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The Nature Conservancy, Montpelier, Vermont  
802-229-4425 x120  
www.vtinvasives.org

