Euonymus alatus

A shrub that eventually grows into a small tree. Young twigs very conspicuously winged. These corky wings can be up to about 1 cm wide. These disappear as the branches age, and the bark becomes rather grooved. The red bud scales are conspicuous as the leaf emerges. Leaves bright green, turning splendid fiery red in autumn. The intense autumn colours have given the tree its common name “Burning bush” in the USA. The small, yellow-green flowers are followed by characteristic fruits that consist of a bursting pinkish-red capsule containing one seed (sometimes two) surrounded by an orange membrane (arillus). The fibrous root system is finely spread and fairly shallow. Thrives on any soil, tolerating both sun and shade, but is sensitive to drought and stagnant water around the roots.