

KENTUCKY'S LEAST WANTED PLANT 2004

Promoting alternatives to invasive landscape plants

To heighten awareness of invasive plants that threaten Kentucky's native biodiversity, a **Least Wanted** plant will be featured in the Spring of each year with suggested alternatives.

LEAST WANTED!

Burning Bush

Euonymus alatus

Burning Bush's bright red fall foliage and hardy nature have made it a very popular landscaping shrub. Unfortunately, this shrub's broad habitat tolerance and dispersal by birds make the species a threat to Kentucky's natural areas. Once Burning Bush becomes established into a natural area, it rapidly dominates the understory, outcompeting the native vegetation.



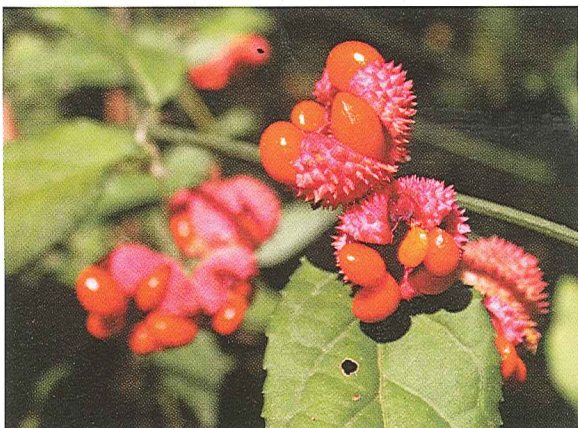
Miller, James H. USDA Forest Service. Image UGA9006018. Invasive.org. <http://www.invasive.org/>. November 12, 2003

Good Native Alternatives

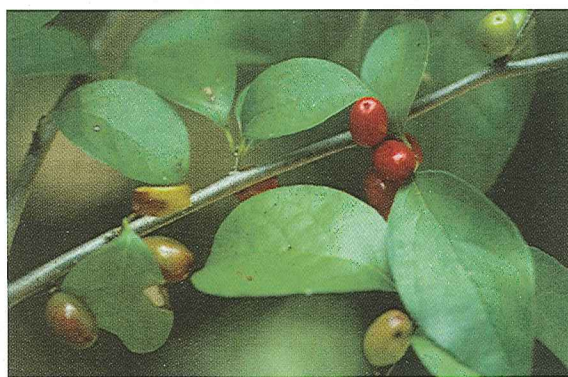
Strawberry Bush

Euonymus americanus

This deciduous shrub grows 6-12 ft. tall. Its pale green flowers produced in May-June have a sweet fragrance; however it is the pink and orange fruits produced by this shrub in October-November that are its greatest appeal. Strawberry bush, also known as Heart's-a-Bursting-with-Love, thrives in well-drained loamy soil and light shade. This shrub is not a good selection in locations where deer browse is a problem, this species is a favorite of deer.



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Spicebush

Lindera benzoin

Spicebush is a natural alternative to Burning Bush because it is shade-tolerant and produces attractive red berries in the fall. Clusters of yellow flowers appear in March before the leaves develop. Although the flowers are not fragrant, the leaves, twigs and berries give off a spicy aroma when crushed. This native of Kentucky is frequent in moist woods throughout the state and grows well in rich moist soil.

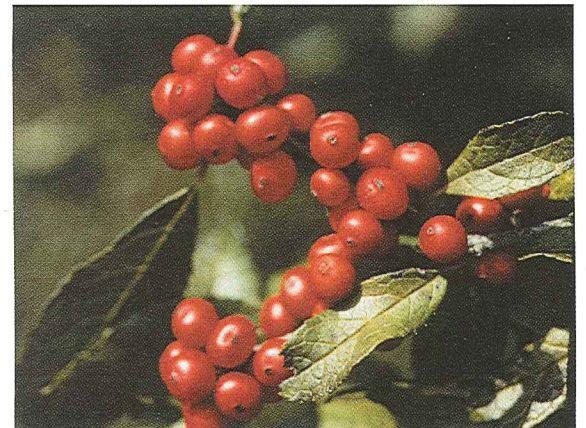


Bernheim Arboretum
and Research Forest

Winterberry Holly

Ilex verticillata

Winterberry Holly is a multistemmed deciduous shrub known for its exceptionally showy bright red fruit in fall and winter. Native through the eastern coast of North America and sporadically through the midwest, this 5' to 10' shrub is an excellent choice for full sun in both low/wet and upland soils. There are many cultivars available including compact growers, orange and yellow-fruited forms. Plant both male and female forms for best fruit production on the females.



*Kentucky's Least Wanted Program is sponsored by Bernheim Arboretum and Research Forest
and the Kentucky Exotic Pest Plant Council*

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