

Euonymus americanus (American) Strawberry-bush

Tried and True
Native Plant Selections
for the Mid-Atlantic



Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia
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One of the few “good” Euonymus, this native* shrub gives a spectacular show each fall. The raspberry color husks of the seed capsules burst open to reveal DayGlo orange covered seeds, hence the common name Heart’s-a-Bustin’. This surreal effect is fun to show children and adults!

Shrub	Flowers, Fruit Capsules, Early Fall Shrub	
Height: 4–6 feet	 	
Spread: 4–6 feet		
Bloom Color: Pale green with purple stamens		
Characteristics		
Airy, multistemmed deciduous shrub		
Oval, bright green leaves, 3 inches long		
Inconspicuous green flowers from May to June		
Unique red fruits resembling strawberries open to reveal orange-red arils (the seed coverings) that dangle from the open capsules		
Leaves become dark red in fall		
Bright green bark on twigs, darker bark on trunk		
Spreads by rhizomes; also, if stem nodes touch the ground, they may develop roots		
Attributes		
Tolerates clay soil, full shade (but fruits best in light shade), wet conditions, and Black Walnut; susceptible to Euonymus scale and crown gall		
Deer occasionally-to-frequently severely damage (may need protection if deer are overpopulated)		
Therapeutic uses; fruits may be harmful if eaten		
Seeds eaten minimally by turkey and songbirds		
Growing and Maintenance Tips		
Soil Requirements: Slightly acidic, well-drained	Excellent Replacement for	
Light Requirements: Partial Shade	<i>Berberis thunbergii</i> - Japanese Barberry	
Water Requirements: Moist	<i>Euonymus alatus</i> - Winged Burning Bush	
Use as hedge or in shade gardens	<i>Nandina domestica</i> - Heavenly Bamboo	
Hardiness: USDA Zones 6–9	*It is native to DC and, in PA, is mostly concentrated along the southeastern border. It is common in the Piedmont and Coastal Plains of DE and VA and infrequent in the VA mountains.	
developed by Master Gardeners of Northern Virginia, serving Arlington and Alexandria		

Images by Elaine Mills, private garden, Arlington, VA and Glencarlyn Garden