

# wahoo

## *Euonymus atropurpureus*

Kingdom: Plantae  
Division: Magnoliophyta  
Class: Magnoliopsida  
Order: Celastrales  
Family: Celastraceae

### ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

### FEATURES

Wahoo is a shrub or small tree that grows to 25 feet tall. Its bark is gray, although young branches are green with gray stripes. Leaves are opposite, ovate and finely toothed. A leaf may reach four and one-half inches long and two inches wide. Leaves turn red or yellow in fall. Flowers are composed of four red-purple petals and four purple-green sepals. Each flower is about one-third of an inch wide. Flowers are produced in small clusters. Fruits are four-lobed capsules that mature in fall and open to reveal four, red fruits. Each fruit has two seeds.

### BEHAVIORS

Wahoo grows statewide in Illinois. It is generally found in upland deciduous forests but may also grow on riverbanks, in forest edges and in thickets. Flowers are produced from May through July. Pollinators are attracted to the flowers. The fruits are eaten by a few bird species.

### ILLINOIS RANGE





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## **Aquatic Habitats**

rivers and streams

## **Woodland Habitats**

upland deciduous forests

## **Prairie and Edge Habitats**

edge