Winterberry Euonymus
Winterberry Euonymus  
(*Euonymus bungeana*)

**General Description**
A small tree or large rounded shrub with semi-pendulous branches. Native to Manchuria and northern China. Showy pink fruits, opening to expose reddish seeds. Attractive gray bark. The largest shrubs in North Dakota are 13 feet tall with a canopy spread of 12 feet.

**Leaves and Buds**
Bud Arrangement - Opposite to subopposite, terminal outer bud scales upright creating a stockade-like appearance around meristem, lateral buds imbricate, appressed.
Bud Color - Green to purple-brown.
Bud Size - Medium to small.
Leaf Type and Shape - Simple, elliptic-ovate to elliptic-lanceolate.
Leaf Margins - Acuminate, broad cuneate at base, serrulate.
Leaf Surface - Smooth, glabrous.
Leaf Length - 2 to 4 inches.
Leaf Width - 3/4 to 1½ inches.
Leaf Color - Light to average green; red-purple fall color.

**Flowers and Fruits**
Flower Type - Cymes on stalks 1 to 1½ inches long.
Flower Color - Yellowish.
Seed Type - Pinkish lobed capsules.
Seed Color - Pink capsules open in mid-autumn to display orange-scarlet arils which are very persistent and colorful after leaves fall.

**Form**
Growth Habit - Rounded in form with semi-pendulous branches.
Texture - Medium-fine, summer; medium-fine, winter.
Crown Height - 10 to 15 feet.
Crown Width - 10 to 15 feet.
Bark Color - Young stems, greenish, slender, glabrous, almost round, often with slight corky lines. Major stems have distinctive grayish bark.
Root System - Medium in depth.

**Environmental Requirements**

**Soils**
Soil Texture - Adapted to a variety of soil types.
Soil pH - 5.0 to 7.5.
Windbreak Suitability Group - 1, 2, 3, 4, 4C, 5.

**Cold Hardiness**
USDA Zone 4, possibly 3.

**Water**
Medium in moisture requirements.

**Light**
Full sun to partial shade.

**Uses**

**Conservation/Windbreaks**
Large shrub or small tree for farmstead windbreaks and riparian plantings.

**Wildlife**
Nesting site for songbirds; fruits toxic if eaten.

**Agroforestry Products**
Wood - Used in making pipes, charcoal and gunpowder.
Medicinal - Some *Euonymus* species are used as a laxative, hepatic stimulant, heart medicine, and diuretic. Contains Euonymin which in small dosages stimulates the appetite.

**Urban/Recreational**
Used for patio trees, border plantings, screen plantings, or single specimen.

**Cultivated Varieties**
Current named cultivars are borderline in hardiness in North Dakota, but NDSU plans to release a hardier landscape selection with showy fruits.

**Related Species**
*Eastern Wahoo* (*Euonymus atropurpurea*)

**Pests**
No major pest problems in North Dakota State University trials, but *Euonymus* scale further east. Extracts of various *Euonymus* species are toxic to insect pests.