

Burning Bush

(*Euonymus alatus*)

Burning bush is a dense, deciduous shrub valued for bright fall color and hedge screening. In Colorado it's generally tough, but drought stress and dense growth can allow mites, scale insects, and foliar diseases to develop.



Seasonal Pest & Disease Calendar

Icons: 🌸 Spring | ☀️ Summer | 🍂 Fall | ❄️ Winter

Problem	Type	Active Season	Icons
Euonymus scale (<i>Unaspis euonymi</i>)	Insect	Spring–Summer (crawlers late spring)	🌸 ☀️
Spider mites	Mite	Summer (hot/dry)	☀️
Aphids (occasional)	Insect	Spring–Early Summer	🌸 ☀️
Powdery mildew	Fungus	Summer–Fall	☀️ 🍂

Leaf spot / blight

Fungus

Summer–Fall



Winter dieback / burn

Environmental

Winter–Early Spring



Pest & Disease Guide (Homeowner-Friendly)

1. Euonymus Scale (*Unaspis euonymi*)



Symptoms:

- Small white “oyster-shell” scales on stems (often underside)
- Yellowing foliage, reduced vigor; dieback in heavy infestations

Treatment:

- Prune out heavily infested twigs/branches where practical

- Best spray timing is the crawler stage (late spring/early summer)
- Dormant horticultural oil can help where scale is a known issue (follow label directions)

2. Spider Mites



Symptoms:

- Fine yellow stippling; foliage looks dusty/bronzed
- Sometimes light webbing during hot weather

Treatment:

- Hose foliage (especially undersides) during heat; reduce drought stress
- Avoid broad-spectrum insecticides that can flare mites
- Miticides only if severe and spreading (treat early)

3. Powdery Mildew



Symptoms:

- White/gray powdery coating on leaves (often mid-late summer)

Treatment:

- Improve airflow and sun exposure; thin lightly if crowded
- Avoid excess nitrogen (lush growth worsens mildew)
- Fungicides optional—often cosmetic on established shrubs

4. Leaf Spot / Foliar Blight



Symptoms:

- Brown/black spots that may merge into blotches
- Premature leaf drop late season

Treatment:

- Rake/remove fallen leaves; avoid overhead watering
- Thin lightly for airflow
- Fungicides rarely needed for homeowners

5. Winter Dieback / Winter Burn



Symptoms:

- Dead tips/branches in spring; delayed leaf-out
- Worse on exposed windy sites and dry winters

Treatment:

- Winter watering during warm/dry spells
- Mulch 2-3" (keep off stems)
- Spring prune back to healthy wood

Treatment Timing Calendar – Burning Bush (Colorado Front Range)

Icons: 👁 Scout | ✂ Prune | 💧 Water | 🌿 Treat | 🧹 Sanitation

March–Early April (🌸)

- ✂ Prune out winter dieback
- 👁👁 Inspect stems for scale bumps

Late April–May (🌸)

- 👁👁 Watch for scale crawler activity starting late spring
- 👁👁 Check for aphids on soft new growth

Late May–June (🌸 ☀)

- 🧴 Treat scale during crawler stage if needed
- 👁👁 Begin mite scouting as heat ramps up

July–August (☀)

- 👁👁 Spider mites + powdery mildew + leaf spots
- 🧴 Treat mites early if stippling is spreading
- 🧴 Fungicides only if appearance matters

September–October (🍂)

- 🍂 Rake leaves (biggest disease reducer)
- 💧 Water before ground freezes

Winter (❄)

- 💧 Winter watering during warm, dry stretches
- 🚫 No pesticide treatments needed

When to Worry vs. When It's Cosmetic

● When to Worry (Action Needed)

- Heavy scale causing decline/dieback

- Repeated severe mite bronzing/leaf drop
- Major thinning/loss of vigor year over year

● **Mostly Cosmetic (Monitor Only)**

- Light aphids
- Mild powdery mildew late summer
- Minor late-season leaf spotting