

# Euonymus japonicus

## COMMON NAME

Japanese spindleberry

## FAMILY

Celastraceae

## AUTHORITY

*Euonymus japonicus* Thunb.

## FLORA CATEGORY

Vascular – Exotic

## STRUCTURAL CLASS

Trees & Shrubs - Dicotyledons

## NVS CODE

EUOJAP

## CONSERVATION STATUS

Not applicable

## HABITAT

Terrestrial.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Much branched evergreen shrub or small tree up to 7m high. Twigs green, terete or slightly 4-ribbed, smooth, often wrinkled when dry, not winged. Leaves opposite, obovate to elliptic, acute, crenate, 2.5~7cm long; petiole 5~15mm long. Cymes 5, many-flowered, pedunculate, dichotomous. Buds greenish, slightly 4-angled; flowers 4-merous, 6~10mm diam.; petals green, broadly elliptic, widely separated. Capsule globose, 4-celled, pink, 6~10mm diam., exposing orange to deep red aril after opening. (- Webb et al., 1988)

## SIMILAR TAXA

Much branched evergreen shrub or small tree up to 7m high; twigs green, smooth, often wrinkled when dry; leaves opposite 2.5-7cm long; buds greenish; petals green; fruit capsule pink, 6-10mm diameter, exposes orange to deep red seed appendages after opening (Webb et al., 1988).

## FLOWERING

November, December

## FLOWER COLOURS

Green, White

## FRUITING

March, April, May

## YEAR NATURALISED

1980

## ORIGIN

Japan, China, Korea

## ETYMOLOGY

**euonymus:** One possible explanation is this genus is named after Euonyme, the mother of the Furies (vengeance deities in Greek mythology) because of the irritating properties of this plant. Another explanation is that the name is simply from the Greek eu 'good' and onoma 'name', meaning 'a name of good repute'.

**japonicus:** From Japan



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## NATIONAL PEST PLANT ACCORD SPECIES

**This plant is listed in the 2020 National Pest Plant Accord.** The National Pest Plant Accord (NPPA) is an agreement to prevent the sale and/or distribution of specified pest plants where either formal or casual horticultural trade is the most significant way of spreading the plant in New Zealand. For up to date information and an electronic copy of the 2020 Pest Plant Accord manual (including plant information and images) visit the [MPI website](#).

### Reason For Introduction

Ornamental

### Life Cycle Comments

Perennial.

Poisonous plant:

The spindle berries and orange coated seeds are poisonous.

## MORE INFORMATION

<https://www.nzpcn.org.nz/flora/species/euonymus-japonicus/>