

Lonicera japonica, Japanese Honeysuckle

This woody vine is commonly found along roadsides, forest edges, or in fields. This plant can easily spread over trees, stunting their growth. Growth of this honeysuckle also reduces light availability for the undergrowth vegetation, uses up soil moisture and nutrients, and may even pull some trees down due to the weight of the vines.

Description: This plant is a woody perennial vine that can either trail or climb other trees, reaching up to 80 feet in length. The leaves are opposite and oval shaped, about 1-2.5 inches in length. Younger leaves may be lobed or toothed.

Control: Small infestations can be pulled manually, removing all the roots/shoots from the site or leaving the roots hung up to dry. Japanese Honeysuckle can also be sprayed with herbicides, such as triclopyr or glyphosate through a foliar application.

Look-alikes: There are native honeysuckle species that may be difficult to distinguish from the Japanese variety. Native honeysuckles have hairless stems when young. Trumpet Honeysuckle flowers are reddish or yellow, and the flowers of Twining Honeysuckles are yellow to purple – differing from the Japanese Honeysuckle and its white-pink blooms.

Flower Time and Description: Flowering occurs from April to July. In late spring, white-pink flowers can be seen to emerge at the axils of the leaves. These flowers turn a creamy-yellow color as they age turning into small globular fruits that turn from green to black as they ripen.

