

Lonicera maackii, Amur Honeysuckle

This is a species of Bush Honeysuckle that can be identified regardless of season due to the leaves. This species has been reported most often in the southern counties of the region but is believed that this plant is simply underreported and probably has a stronger presence in the Capital-Mohawk region than reported.

Population Status: Confirmed- Rensselaer, Greene, and Columbia Co.'s, Unconfirmed- Saratoga Co.

Description: Like other species of Bush Honeysuckle, this species can be identified through its hollow stems. Like other honeysuckles, it is a large, deciduous shrub. Its flowers are produced in pairs and are about two cm long with two lips, and begin white and turn yellow to pale orange. The leaves are opposite with a rough pubescence and come to a tip. The plant is shade tolerant and has traditionally been used as a hedge plant. The bark of this plant is ridged and the bark peels off easily when the plant is mature. Berries of this plant are red and attractive to birds.

Control: Small shrubs can be pulled, larger shrubs can be dug up with a pickaxe.

Look-alikes: Other species of Bush Honeysuckle (Invasive and Widespread) look much like Amur Honeysuckle. The leaves of other species of honeysuckle are more rounded and less lanceolate.

Flower Time and Description: The flowers bloom in May-June in pairs, 2 cm long. The flowers start white and turn yellowish orange as they age.

