

September Invasive Plant Highlight

Japanese and Bush Honeysuckle



What is Japanese Honeysuckle?



Japanese honeysuckle vine mat

Lonicera japonica, known as Japanese Honeysuckle and golden-and-silver honeysuckle, is a species of honeysuckle native to eastern Asia. It is often grown as an ornamental plant but has become an invasive in the United States.

Japanese Honeysuckle is a perennial woody vine of the honeysuckle family that spreads by seeds, underground rhizomes, and above ground runners. The flowers of Japanese Honeysuckle are fragrant, two-lipped, and are borne in pairs. The berries are black and are produced in the fall.

The vines create dense tangled thickets by a combination of stem branching, nodal rooting, and vegetative spread from rhizomes.

What is Bush Honeysuckle?

Lonicera maackii, also known as Bush Honeysuckle or Amur Honeysuckle, is a deciduous shrub that originated in eastern Asia and can grow up to 30 feet tall. Bush Honeysuckle is highly adaptable, forming dense stands that crowd and shade out native plants, greatly reducing biodiversity.

Its fragrant flowers are tubular and appear in late spring. They are white changing to yellow. Abundant red berries appear in late summer and often persist throughout winter.

Bush Honeysuckle reproduces both vegetatively and by seeds. It can grow in a wide range of soil types. It tolerates wet soils for brief periods of time and grows in full sun or full shade.



Bush honeysuckle

Please Remove It!

If you find Japanese or Bush Honeysuckle in your yard, please remove it. For Japanese Honeysuckle, hand pulling of vines including the root system works well. For Bush Honeysuckle, removal in early spring and late fall is recommended, because it has leaves when our native shrubs and trees do not making it easier to identify. Small plants can be pulled, while larger bushes may need to be dug up to be removed. **If either plant is pulled while in fruit, the berries should be bagged and disposed of in a landfill – do not compost.**

Information about invasive honeysuckles:

<https://www.invasive.org/weedcd/pdfs/wow/amur-honeysuckle.pdf>

<https://www.invasive.org/browse/subinfo.cfm?sub=3039>

Why Native Plants?

As open space disappears, it is necessary to look at our own landscapes for biodiversity. Native plants promote the unique relationships between our native plants and animals, from the smallest microorganisms, insects and other invertebrates to birds and mammals.

Native plants, from grasses and wildflowers to towering shade trees, form the base of the food chain. Our native insects are uniquely adapted to eat native plants; some are generalists and can eat a variety of plants, but many are specialists that can only digest certain types of leaves based on the chemistry of the plant.

Research by the entomologist Doug Tallamy has shown that native oak trees support over 500 species of caterpillars whereas ginkgos, a commonly planted landscape tree from Asia, host only 5 species of caterpillars. When it takes over 6,000 caterpillars to raise one brood of chickadees, that is a significant difference.

[More information on native plants:](#)

www.vnps.org/natives

www.plantnovanatives.org

www.nwf.org/NativePlantFinder

www.audubon.org/native-plants

[More information on invasive plants:](#)

www.invasiveplantatlas.org

www.invasive.org



Native Virginia Bluebells

Who We Are?

The City of Falls Church Habitat Restoration Team restores the local ecosystem in city parks. We remove damaging invasive plants then re-plant with natives that benefit our local birds, butterflies, bees, and pollinators.

We are a community task force that supports the City's Green Space department. We have monthly events in the Fall and Spring open to volunteers.

Contact Information

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Native Butterfly Weed