

Tatarian honeysuckle

Lonicera tatarica

Description

Common in urban areas and also occurs in rural areas where it was recommended for wildlife until its invasive traits became apparent; forms dense thickets; reduces tree and shrub regeneration, decreases overall plant diversity.

Habit

Deciduous upright to spreading shrub growing to 4 m (12 ft) tall; shallow roots.

Leaves

Simple, opposite, oval to oblong, short, hairless, leaves with pointed tips, 3-6 cm long and 2-4 cm wide with smooth margins, dark green above and paler beneath, early leaf out, long growing season.

Stems



Twigs are slender, brown to reddish with brown pith; multiple stems; numerous arching branches; older branches often hollow; bark is light gray, somewhat exfoliating.

Flowers

Small, pink to white in color, even red occasionally; tubular, fragrant, paired flowers on long (1.5-2.5 cm) stalks arising from the leaf axils; blooms May through June.

Fruits and Seeds

Abundant, red or orange paired berries.

Habitat

Sun and shade tolerant; occurs in a variety of soil and moisture conditions; commonly found along roadsides and on disturbed sites; invades forest, savannas and prairies.

Reproduction

By seeds dispersed by birds.

Similar

Natives Canadian fly honeysuckle (*L. canadensis*), Twinberry honeysuckle (*L. involucrate*), Swamp fly honeysuckle (*L. oblongifolia*) and Mountain fly honeysuckle (*L. villosa*) are relatively short and sparse in comparison with non-native species and lack hollow stems on older branches.

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Monitor sunny, upland sites and open forests in spring as non-native honeysuckle leafs out before natives. Begin control efforts in highest quality areas; hand pull or dig small plants, removing all roots; target large, fruit-bearing plants for control/removal; foliar spray may be effective for large populations where few natives are present; treat cut stumps with herbicide; basal bark treatment is also effective, spray bottom 18 inches of all stems. Where fuel is present, prescribed fire may provide effective control of seedlings in fire adapted communities.

Credits

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