

## European fly honeysuckle

### *Lonicera xylosteum*

#### Description

Introduced to North America as an ornamental plant. This plant is mildly poisonous.

#### Habit

Perennial, medium-sized, deciduous, 8-10 ft tall, rounded, arching branches, medium texture, fast growth rate.

#### Leaves

Opposite, largest leaves 9-12+ cm long, egg-shaped, gray-green in color, gradually widening from a short petiole and concavely forming a sharp point at the tip; underside with shaggy, long, soft hairs.

#### Stems

Pubescent; hollow; tan to white-brown; winter buds extend out at a 45 degree angle; stout, zigzag, and slightly rough.

#### Flowers

Yellow-white in color; borne in pairs on peduncles





that are longer than the petioles; 10-15 mm long; tubular or cup-shaped with a red "saucer" base; stems 2-4 cm long; red flower base made up of oval leaf-like bracts and usually stays attached after the petals have dropped; blooms late May through early June.

### **Fruits and Seeds**

Scarlet, spherical berries borne in pairs, usually measure 6mm (0.25 in) in diameter and ripen in the late summer to early fall.

### **Habitat**

Native to Europe. Found in abandoned fields, forest edges, floodplains, open disturbed areas, roadsides, vacant lots, yards or gardens.

### **Reproduction**

By seeds dispersed by birds and vegetatively.

### **Similar**

Bells honeysuckle (*Lonicera ?bella*); Morrow's honeysuckle (*Lonicera morrowii*); Tatarian honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*); Amur Honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*), all of which are invasive honeysuckle species.

### **Monitoring and Rapid Response**

Hand-pulling; effectively controlled by any of the several readily available general use herbicides such as glyphosate. No biological control is currently available.

### **Credits**

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