

Amur honeysuckle

Lonicera maackii

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 up to 5 m (12-16 ft) tall.

Leaves

Simple, opposite, slightly hairy, elliptical leaves, 4-9 cm long, smooth margins and a long distinctive apex or drip tip, leaf out early, long growing season.

Stems

Multiple stems; numerous arching branches; thick



non-exfoliating gray to tan bark with noticeable interlacing ridges; older branches often hollow.

Flowers

Small, white to pink in color, tubular, paired flowers on short (0.5 cm) stalks arising from the leaf axils; fragrant; blooms May through June.

Fruits and Seeds

Fruits are red and paired, borne on very short stalks; abundant; persistent; dispersed by birds.

Habitat

Relatively shade tolerant; occurs in a variety of soil and moisture conditions; invades open forests, savannas and prairies; disturbed areas are particularly vulnerable to invasion.

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 comparatively short and sparse and lack hollow stems on older branches. Non-native privet species (*Ligustrum* spp.) have flowers and berries at the ends of their branches, not in the leaf axils.

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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