

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

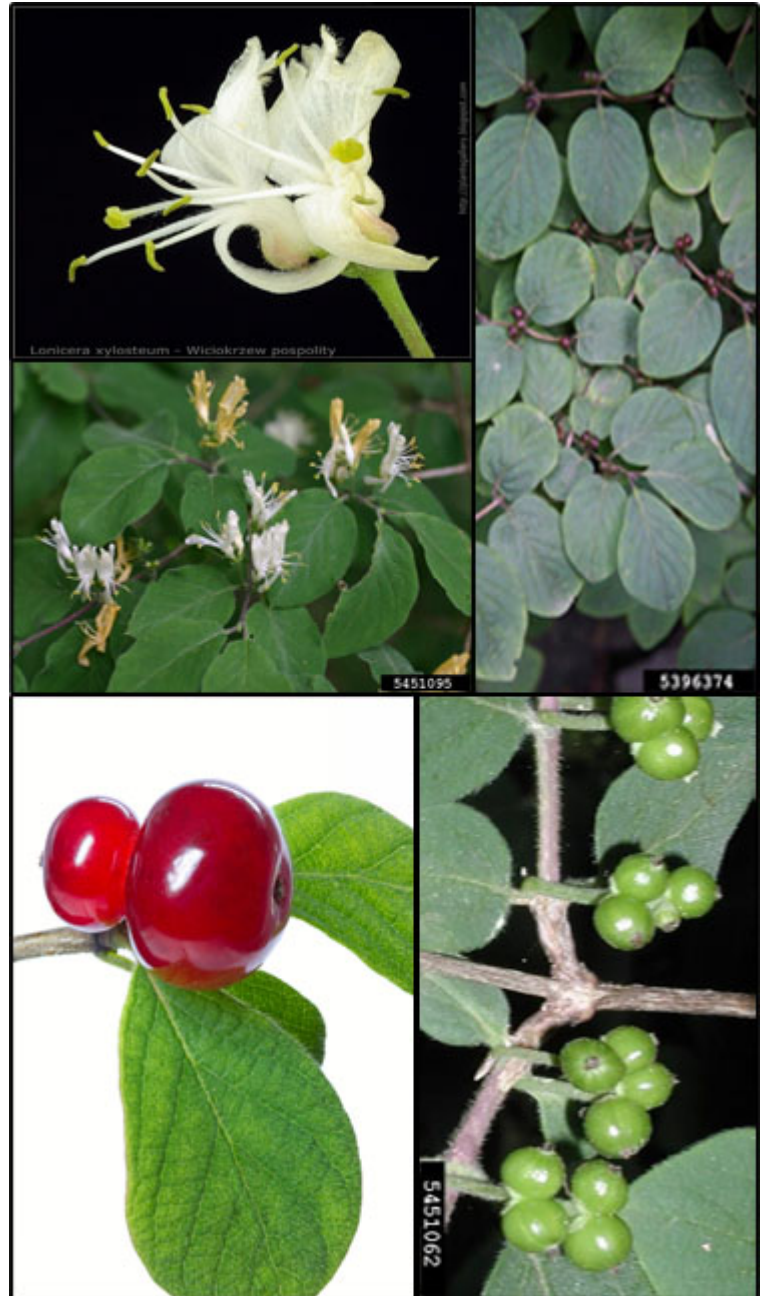
Opposite, largest leaves 9-12+ cm long, egg-shaped, gray-green in color, gradually widening from a short petiole and concavely forming a sharp point at the tip; underside with shaggy, long, soft hairs.

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

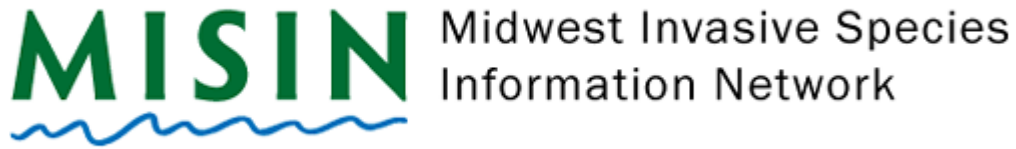
Bells honeysuckle (*Lonicera ?bella*); Morrow's honeysuckle (*Lonicera morrowii*); Tatarian honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*); Amur Honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*), all of which are invasive honeysuckle species.

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

The information provided in this factsheet was gathered from the National Park Service and the UConn Horticulture Plant Database. Individual species images that appear with a number in a black box are



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