

# Japanese honeysuckle

*Lonicera japonica*



## HABITAT:

- Primarily found in disturbed habitats - roadsides, trails, old fields, forest edges
- Will spread rapidly when light levels are optimal - gaps in forest canopy

## ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS:

- Shades out other plants and competes for nutrients in soil
- Twines around trees and shrubs which can cause them to collapse under its weight



## TIMING:

- Flowers April to July
- Fruits in early fall

## MANAGEMENT:

- Plants growing as a ground cover, pull low on the stems to remove the whole vine and its roots<sup>1</sup>. Cutting vines may stimulate re-growth.
- Plants growing on trees or shrubs should be cut at ground level and then again as high as possible

## Plant at a Glance:

1. **Leaf:** semi-evergreen, opposite, oval in shape, hairy below
2. **Flower:** fragrant, white to pale in color, produced throughout the summer, elongated stamens
3. **Fruit:** many-seeded, black, pulpy berry

## Native Alternative:

Trumpet honeysuckle, *Lonicera sempervirens*<sup>2</sup>



- **Habitat:** low open woods, woodland margins
- **Benefits and Uses:** a well behaved vine with exfoliating bark on older stems. Plentiful vibrantly-colored tubular flowers and red berries in the summer and fall. Attracts ruby-throated hummingbirds.
- **Growing tips:** plant in full sun or partial shade in moist, loamy soil. Prune as needed to control/promote flowering.

**References:** <sup>1</sup>Bravo, Melissa. "Invasive Exotic Plant Tutorial - Japanese honeysuckle MC." PA DCNR - DCNR Home. Plant Conservation Alliance - Alien Plant Working Group, 5 Mar. 2003. Web. 1 Aug. 2012. <<http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/forestry/invasivetutorial/>>. <sup>2</sup>Burrell, C. Colston, Janet Marinelli, and Bonnie Lore. *Native Alternatives to Invasive Plants*. Brooklyn, NY: Brooklyn Botanic Garden, 2007. Print.

**Photos:** Baskauf, Steven J. *Fruit*. 2002. *Bioimages*. Web. 9 Aug. 2012. <<http://www.cas.vanderbilt.edu/bioimages/image/l/loja--frcloseup16620.htm>>, Bargeron, Chuck .N.d. University of Georgia. *Indiana's Most Unwanted Invasive Plants Pest*. Web. 9 Aug. 2012. <<http://www.invasive.org/weedcd/species/3039.htm>>.