



INVASIVE PLANTS OF OHIO

Fact Sheet 1

Amur, Morrow's & Tatarian Honeysuckle

Lonicera maackii, *L. morrowii*, *L. tatarica*

AMUR HONEYSUCKLE



DESCRIPTION:

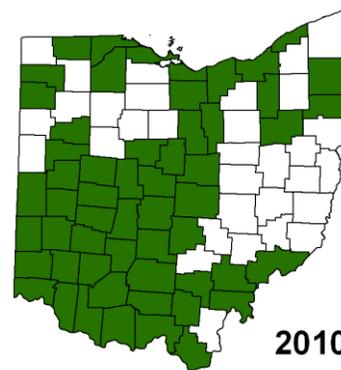
Amur, Morrow's and Tatarian bush honeysuckles are upright, deciduous shrubs that range from 6 to 15 feet in height at maturity. Older stems have hollow pith (center). Two native bush honeysuckles, bush honeysuckle (*Diervilla lonicera*) and Canada fly honeysuckle (*Lonicera canadensis*) may be confused with these non-natives; proper identification is necessary. Branches of the native species have solid stems, while the non-natives have hollow pith.

The 1-2½ inch leaves are opposite along the stem and short-stalked. Amur honeysuckle has dark green leaves that end in a sharp long-pointed tip; the leaf underside has hair along the veins. Morrow's and Tatarian both have oval to egg-shaped leaves. The underside of Morrow's leaves is consistently hairy, while Tatarian lacks hair.

Pairs of tubular flowers less than an inch long are borne along the stem in the leaf axils. Amur flowers have very short, pubescent peduncles (stems). Morrow's peduncles are long and pubescent, while Tatarian's are long and glabrous (smooth). Flowering generally occurs from early to late spring. Yellow to dark-red berries mature from late August to October. Showy pink honeysuckle (*L. x bella*) is an invasive hybrid of Morrow's and Tatarian with showy pink flowers.

Amur honeysuckle is native to China, Russian Far East, Korea, and Japan. Morrow's honeysuckle is native to Korea and Japan. Tatarian honeysuckle is native to Russia, Central Asia, and China. Tatarian honeysuckle was introduced into North America in 1752; Amur and Morrow's honeysuckles came in the late 1800s, as ornamental plants. Subsequently, they were promoted for wildlife cover and soil erosion control, in addition to landscaping.

AMUR HONEYSUCKLE



MORROW'S HONEYSUCKLE



HABITAT:

These non-native bush honeysuckles are relatively shade-tolerant, invading mesic to moist woods as well as forest edges, abandoned fields, prairie remnants, pastures, and other open, upland habitats. Woods that have been grazed or disturbed are more susceptible to invasion. Morrow's honeysuckle is capable of invading bogs, fens, lakeshores, and sandy plains. Amur honeysuckle prefers limestone-based soils.

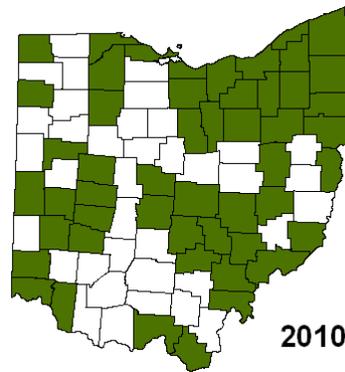
INVASIVE CHARACTERISTICS:

Amur, Morrow's, and Tatarian bush honeysuckles fruit prolifically and are highly attractive to birds, which widely disseminate seeds across the landscape. Deer also disperse seeds. Cut stems will resprout vigorously. These shrubs shade native vegetation since they leaf out earlier in the spring and drop their leaves later in the fall than native plants. It has been documented that birds nesting in honeysuckle suffer greater nest predation than those nesting in native shrubs.

CONTROL:

Mechanical: Hand removal of seedlings or small plants may be effective for light infestations, but care should be taken to remove the entire plant and minimize soil disturbance. In shaded forest habitats, where bush honeysuckles tend to be less resilient, repeated cutting to ground level, during the growing season, may result in high mortality. Cutting must be repeated at least once annually or bush honeysuckles will often form stands that are more dense and productive than they were prior to cutting. For thickets of seedlings or small saplings, repeated mowing or bush-hogging may be effective.

MORROW'S HONEYSUCKLE



TATARIAN HONEYSUCKLE

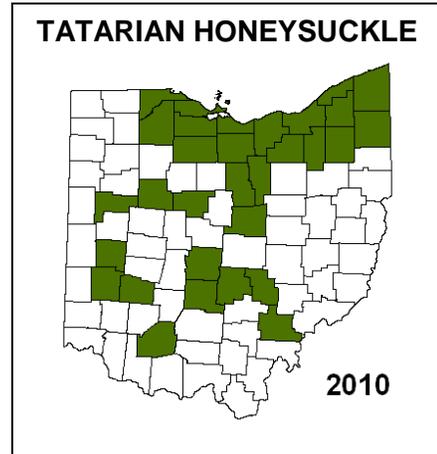
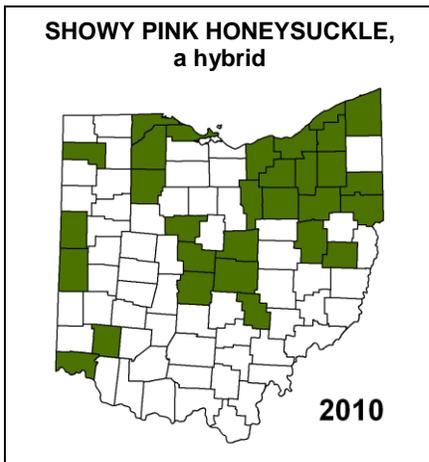


Prescribed burning may be used to control bush honeysuckles growing in open habitats, if there is enough fuel. In all instances, control should be initiated prior to the seed dispersal period (late summer to early autumn) to minimize reinvasion of treated habitats.

Chemical control:

Selective herbicide application is the most effective control method for woody invasive plants. Herbicides can be applied to the foliage (low volume or high volume during the growing season), cut stems (at the time of cutting), or to the bark of the lower portions of the stems/trunks. Herbicides for foliar application include Roundup, AquaNeat, Glypro, Rodeo, Razor, and Escort. Herbicides for cut stem or basal bark application include Garlon 4, Stalker, Pathfinder, and Pathway.

Well-established stands of bush honeysuckles are best managed by cutting the stems to ground level and painting or spraying the stumps. Foliar application should only be used when the ambient temperature is above 65 degrees F. All three bush honeysuckle species leaf out early in the spring and hold their leaves late into the fall, creating ideal times for foliar herbicide application particularly in large monotypic stands. To be most effective, many herbicides require a penetrating or sticking agent.



Biological: No biological control agents are currently available for these plants.

Note: Maps of species' ranges are based on records as of 2010.

Credits and additional information:

Plant Conservation Alliance-Alien Plant Working Group
Ohio Department of Natural Resources, www.ohiodnr.gov
The Nature Conservancy, Ohio Chapter
The Ohio State University Extension, <http://woodlandstewards.osu.edu>
OIPC website, www.oipc.info