



BRANDYWINE
CONSERVANCY

Preserving Our
Land & Water

BUSH HONEYSUCKLE

(*Lonicera* spp. L.)

Exotic bush honeysuckles **outcompete and displace native plants**. Two types, Bell's and Morrow's, are unusually adaptable and can **infest a broad range of habitats** from wetlands to upland forests. Exotic bush honeysuckles **fruit prolifically and spread aggressively** through the dispersal of seeds by birds.

IDENTIFY

BUSH HONEYSUCKLE | Leslie J. Meinhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org



CHARACTERISTICS

Bush honeysuckles, members of the *Caprifoliaceae* family, include: Morrow's (*L. morrowii*), tatarian (*L. tatarica*), Bell's or showy fly (*L. x bella*), and amur (*L. maackii*). Exotic bush honeysuckles are upright, deciduous shrubs, 6–15 feet in height. The egg-shaped leaves (1–2.5 inches in length) are opposite along the stems, and older stems are often hollow. Paired, fragrant, tubular flowers range from creamy whites and pinks to reds, and fruits are red/orange, multi-seeded berries. Exotic bush honeysuckles spread by seed and vegetative sprouting.

WHERE FROM

Originally native to Eurasia (Japan, China, Korea, Turkey, and southern Russia), bush honeysuckles are used as ornamentals promoted for erosion control and wildlife cover.



TATARIAN HONEYSUCKLE FOLIAGE
Rob Routledge, Sault College, Bugwood.org

WHERE FOUND

Because they are relatively shade-intolerant, exotic bush honeysuckles most commonly appear in open, upland habitats. Grazed or disturbed woodlands, meadows, roadsides, and building sites are common sites of infestations.



MORROW'S HONEYSUCKLE
Chris Evans, Illinois Wildlife Action Plan, Bugwood.org



AMUR HONEYSUCKLE FRUITS
Chuck Barger, University of Georgia, Bugwood.org



BELL'S HONEYSUCKLE FLOWERS
Joseph Berger, Bugwood.org

CONTROL

CHEMICAL METHOD

Mature exotic bush honeysuckles are best managed by a combination of mechanical and chemical methods. Cut the stems to ground level and paint or spray the stumps with glyphosate (e.g., *Roundup*) at a 2–3% solution.

Seedlings of exotic bush honeysuckles can be controlled by a foliar application of glyphosate herbicide, at a 1% solution, sprayed directly onto leaves or applied by sponge.

MANUAL METHOD

Remove seedlings and small plants by hand. Use care not to disturb the soil unnecessarily. In shaded situations, where exotic bush honeysuckles are less resilient, repeated cutting and mowing to ground level during the growing season is highly effective.

Cutting or mowing must be repeated at least once annually. Bush honeysuckles left to grow after an initial cutting can form even more dense and productive stands than the original infestation.

REMEMBER

When removing, **be careful** not to remove or destroy desirable species.

Do not confuse with native bush honeysuckles (*Diervilla*); unlike the exotics, most native bush honeysuckles have solid stems.

Both chemical and mechanical control should be initiated prior to late summer/early autumn to minimize seed dispersal.

REPLANT

Once eradicated in an area, be sure to restore by planting native species.

(*Read and follow all herbicide labels carefully before use.*)

SOURCES

National Park Service and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service <http://www.invasive.org/eastern/midatlantic/loni.html>
Plant Conservation Alliance's Alien Plant Working Group <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/pdf/loni.pdf>
USDA Forest Service, Forest Health Staff, Newtown Square, PA. Invasive Plants website: http://www.na.fs.fed.us/fhp/invasive_plants
www.nps.gov/plants/alien/map/loni.html, www.nps.gov/plants/alien/fact/loni.html, www.hort.uconn.edu/plants