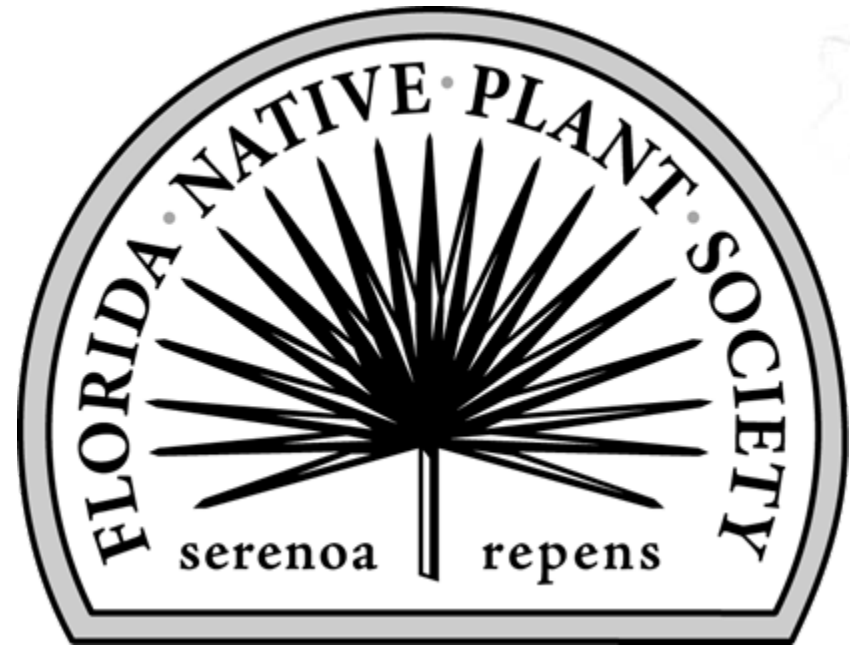


Florida Native Plant Society



Native Plant Owners Manual

Lonicera sempervirens – Coral Honeysuckle

Mark Hutchinson

Putting things in perspective

All seasonal references are applicable to the eastern panhandle of Hernando County where the plants portrayed in this presentation grow. This area happens to be a cold spot in central Florida due to the Brooksville Ridge and approximates a Hardiness Zone of 8a or 8b, average annual low temperatures ranging between 10 and 20 °F.

Any reference to medicinal or culinary use of plants or plant parts should in no way be considered an endorsement by the Florida Native Plant Society of any sort of experimentation or consumptive use.

Please do not attempt to rescue any native plants without first reviewing the [FNPS Policy on Transplanting Native Plants](#)

Special thanks to Lucille Lane, Shirley Denton, Kari Ruder and Brooke Martin

Coral Honeysuckle

Honeysuckle family



*Lonicera
sempervirens*





Navigation Links

(for use in open discussion)

[What's in a Name?](#)

[Biological Classification – Tree of Life](#)

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- [In North America](#)
- [In Florida](#)

What this plant needs to -

- [Thrive](#)
- [Pollination](#)
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[Life Cycle](#)

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recommended

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presentation, clicking
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you to this page.



Trumpet Honeysuckle, coral honeysuckle,

Lonicera (luh - NIS - er - a)

Named for Adam Lonitzer (1528 – 1586) German botanist and author, who studied at Marburg and University of Mainz under Conrad Gessner, earning his Magister degree by age sixteen. He went on to teach as a Professor of Mathematics and Doctor of Medicine. Noted for his 1557 revision of *Eucharis Rosslin's* herbal and wrote his first book on herbs – *Kräuterbuch* in 1557 crediting Jean Ruel.

sempervirens (sem - per - VY - renz)

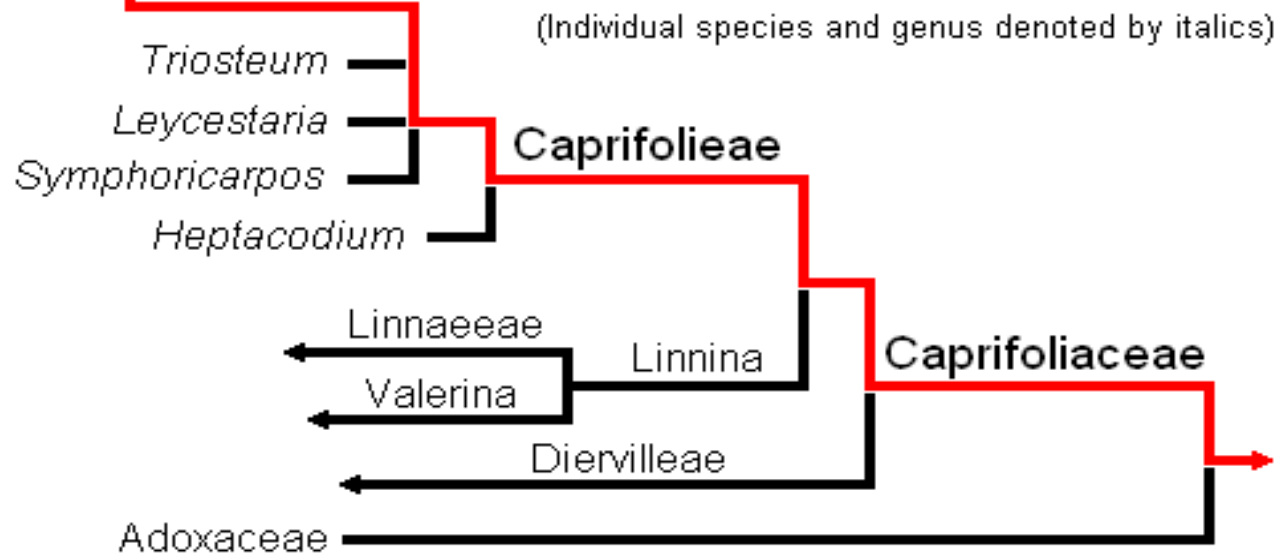
From the Latin '*semper*,' meaning ever, and '*viridis*,' meaning green.



Biological and Genetic Relationships

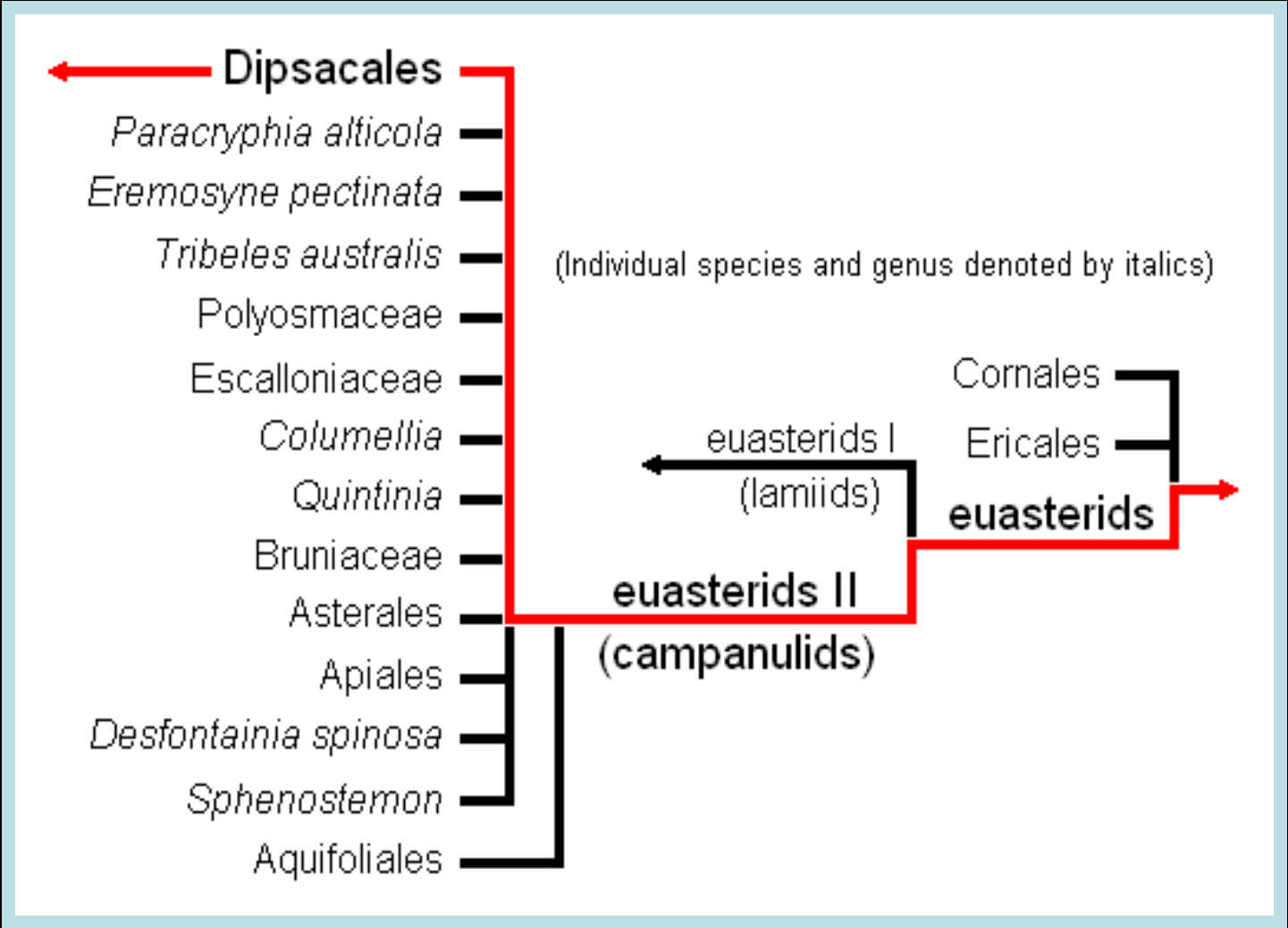
Lonicera sempervirens L. – trumpet honeysuckle

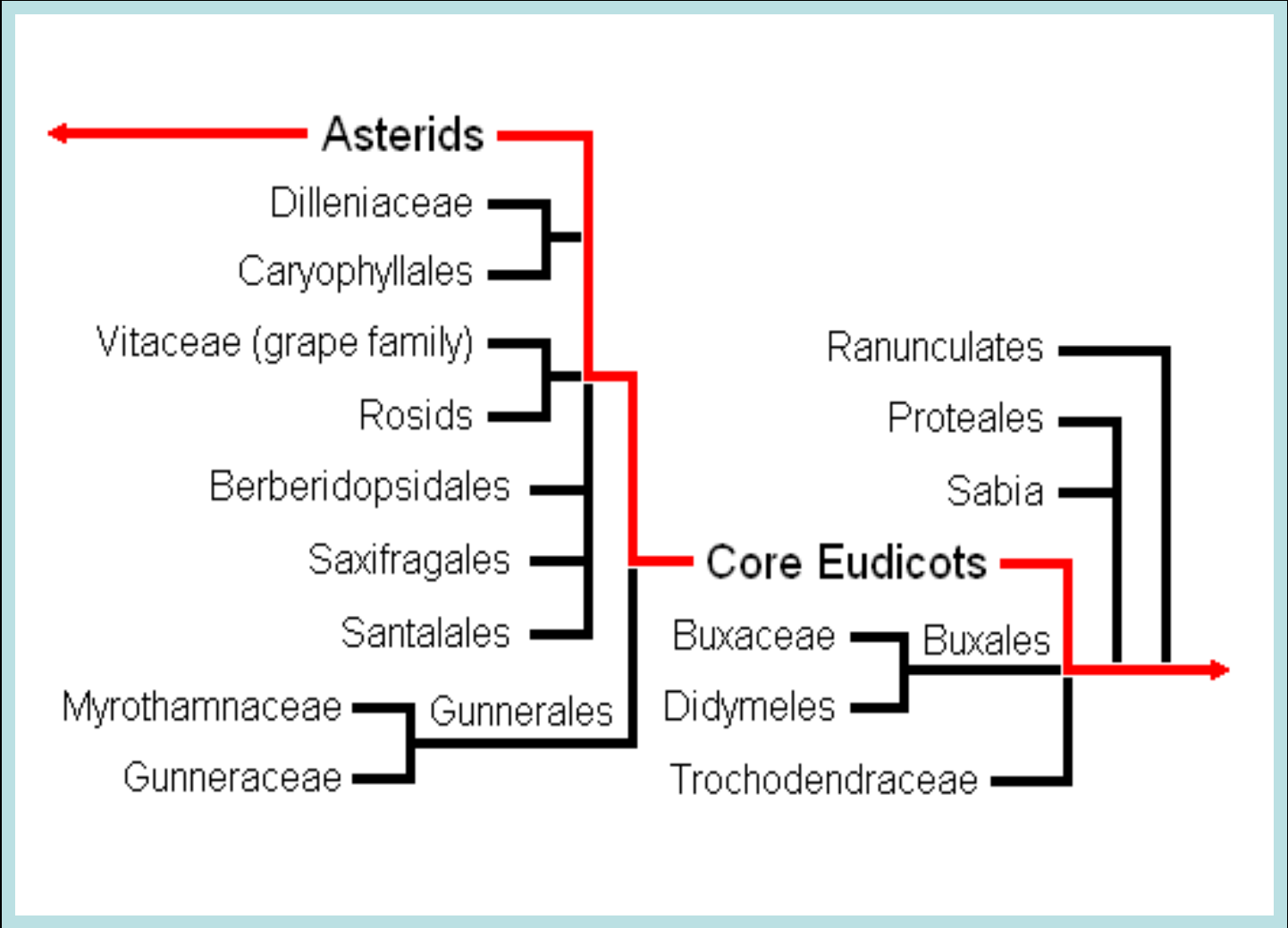
L *Lonicera* L. - honeysuckle

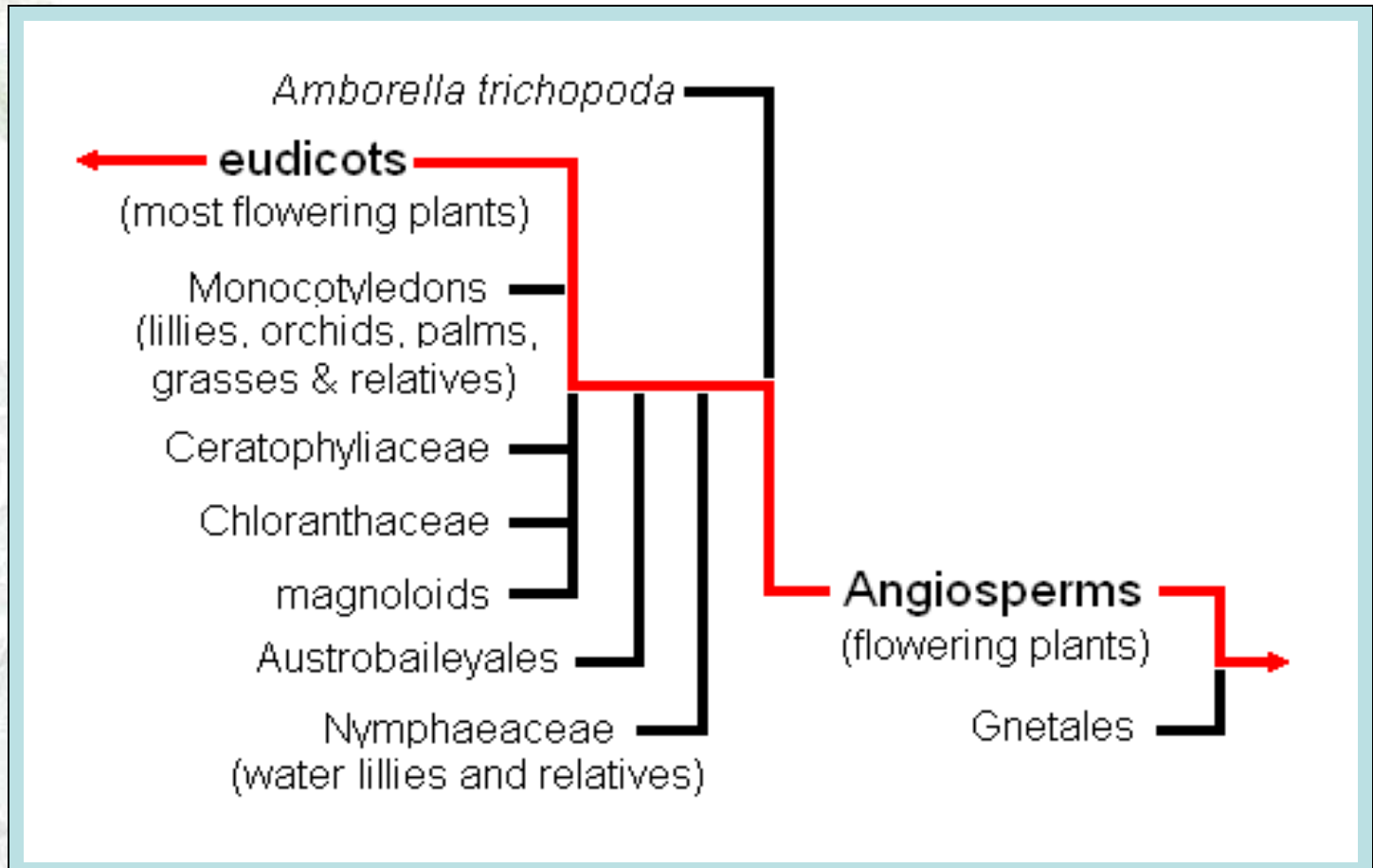


Each species is a leaf on the Tree of Life. Its genetic connections can be explored by following the branches (red line), towards the roots of life.







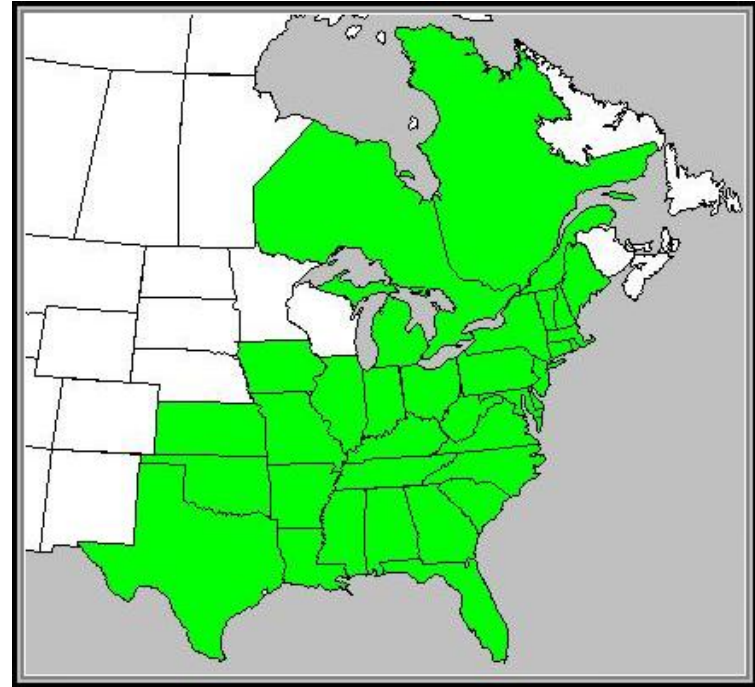


Link to the University of Arizona's [Tree of Life](#).



Species Distribution in the United States

Trumpet Honeysuckle, native to North America, is endemic to the United States, Canada and north Mexico. It can be found from Texas northeast to the Canadian province of Quebec. Then south, along the eastern seaboard, to Florida.



(For specific distribution within any of the shaded areas go to the USDA link provided on the reference page, and click the shaded area of interest.)





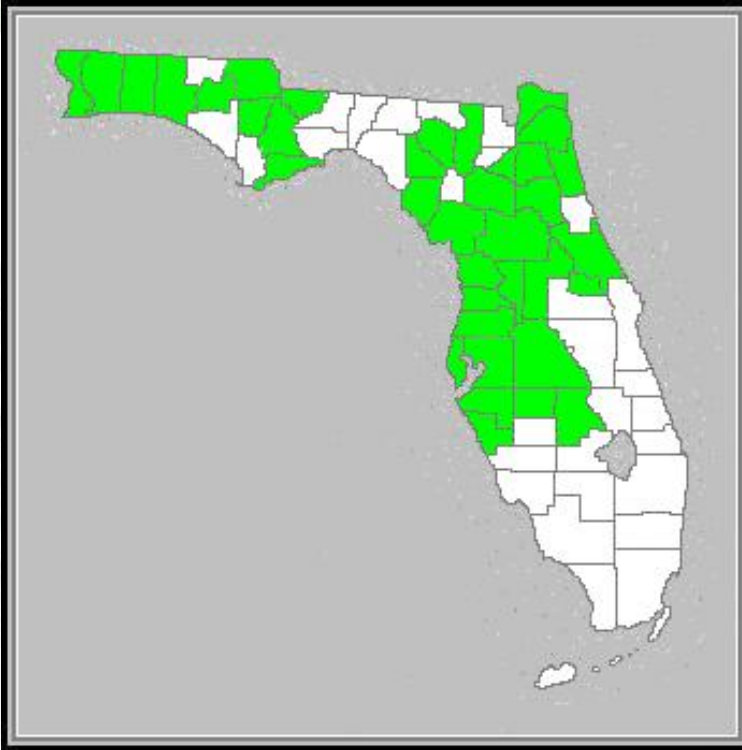
- The United States Department of Agriculture, NRCS, lists a total of fifty-two species of the genus *Lonicera* L. within the United States.

- The Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants lists two species of this genus in Florida, only *L. sempervirens* is native.

**Robert K. Godfrey Herbarium
FSU #203804 Gadsden Co.,
5/7/2010**



Species Distribution within Florida



(*vouchered – indicates that a fully documented dried specimen has been deposited in an approved herbarium)

- Trumpet Honeysuckle, a perennial vine, is *vouchered in approximately forty-two counties in Florida, favoring the Panhandle and the Northwest Peninsula.
- *Lonicera sempervirens* prefers open woodlands and edges of clearings.



Plant Structure and Life Cycle

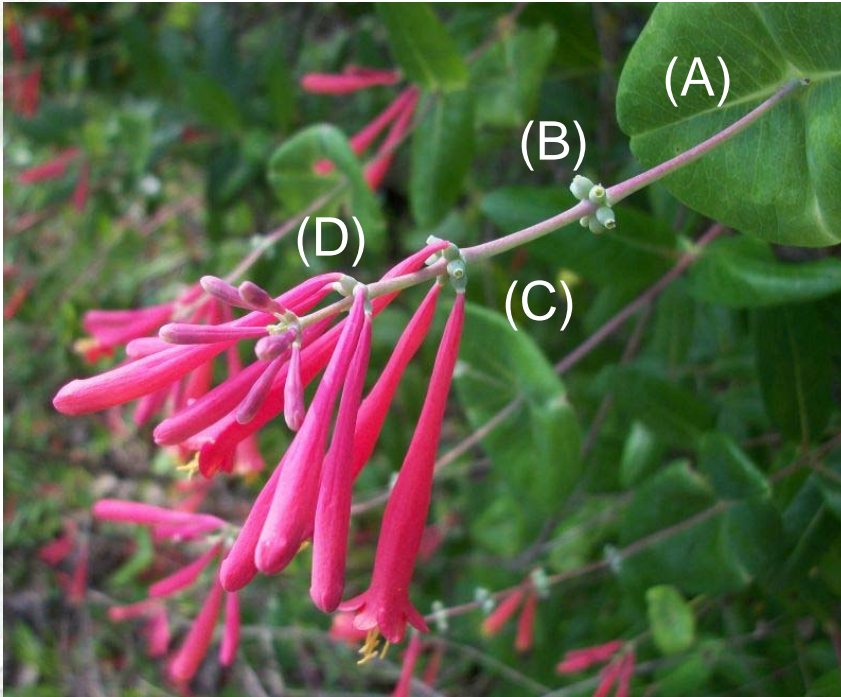
Lonicera sempervirens, is a high-climbing twining vine with smooth, paired evergreen leaves. This plant holds up quite well in the relatively mild winters of the deep south, with leaves holding through winter.

New growth starts out dull then turns glossy. The leaves are ovate to oblong with smooth, rolled down margins and a blunt or short pointed tip.



Stems grow to as long as several meters, with leaves consistently ovate or elliptical until the last leaf before the flower cluster, or inflorescence, this last leaf is perfoliate. The stems extends beyond this special leaf forming nodes with six deep red flowers projecting laterally from the stem, anchored by a tiny 'bud'. As the flower matures the corolla opens forming acute lobes resulting in a trumpet shape and exposing the reproductive component of the flower.





(A) Perfoliate Leaf

(B) Six 'budded' node where flowers have fallen off

(C) Node with flowers starting to open

(D) Additional nodes with unopened flowers



(E) The style topped by the stigma – the female component

(F) The yellow anther, the male component

Following pollination, the trumpet-shaped corolla drops off and the flower 'bud' or pistil enlarges, forming a green fruit. The fruit and the seeds it holds will eventually ripen to a bright red. Birds finding sanctuary in *Lonicera sempervirens*' dense foliage can also feed on the fruit, aiding in the distribute of seed.





Growing Conditions



to



- *Lonicera sempervirens* prefers direct sun to partial shade

- Trumpet Honeysuckle does well in well-drained, sandy to clay loam soils rich in organics
- Slightly acidic to medium alkaline soil – 6.0 to 8.5 pH
- Somewhat drought tolerant
- Hardiness: USDA Zone 5a: to $-28.8\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ($-20\text{ }^{\circ}\text{F}$)
to USDA Zone 10b: above $1.7\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C}$ ($35\text{ }^{\circ}\text{F}$)
- Flowering and seed production occur from spring into late summer
- Height: 12 - 15 feet (3.6 – 4.7 m.)



Pollinators and Wildlife

Lonicera sempervirens attracts many pollinators including Ruby-throated Hummingbirds, honey bees, native bees and butterflies. It is a larval host for both the Spring Azure (*Celastrina ladon*) and Snowberry Clearwing, (*Hemaris diffinis*) butterfly.



The bright red fruits are popular with quail, purple finch, goldfinch, hermit thrush, and the American robin.



Seed Collection and Propagation

To harvest the seeds, pick the fruit when they turn bright red. Thoroughly clean the flesh from the seeds and dry.

Propagation can also be accomplished using soft or semi-hardwood cuttings taken in the summer or fall. The cutting should be made at an angle and root hormone applied to the cut face. Reduce the foliage by about one third and place cutting in a rich soil mix, keep moist.

Air layering is another method of propagation that can be successful with Trumpet Honeysuckle.



Maintenance and Care

Make sure the plant is located where ventilation is adequate, this will discourage powdery mildew.

As the plant is first emerging and during growth spurts, it may need some help in getting started climbing. This can be done by tying the plant to an existing structure, or providing a trellis.

Aphids may be a problem in the spring. Hose the plant down or introduce ladybugs before trying the proper insecticide. Cut back any damaged leaves or stems.

Once flowering has ceased, the plant can be trimmed back for control, or to achieve a desired shape.



Presentation Reference

- Biological and genetic relationships

University of Arizona [Tree of Life](#)

- United States distribution

[USDA](#) - Natural Resource Conservation Service

- Florida distribution

[Atlas of Florida Vascular Plants](#)

- Herbarium specimen

[FSU Robert K. Godfrey Herbarium](#)



Presentation References (cont.)

- Growing conditions and general information

- [Floridata](#)
- [Dave's Garden](#)
- [Wildflower Center UTA](#)

- Nectar Food Plants

Biospherenursery.com

- FNPS – Natives for Landscaping

FNPS.org This Link will take you to the profile for this plant on the FNPS website



- For more in-depth study:

Best Native Plants for Southern Gardens: A Handbook for Gardeners, Homeowners, and Professionals. 2010. Gil Nelson. Gainesville: University Press of Florida. ISBN 978-0-8130-3458-4

Florida Butterfly Caterpillars and Their Host Plants. Marc C. Minno, Jerry F. Butler, and Donald W. Hall. 2005. Gainesville: University Press of Florida. ISBN 0813027896.

Native Florida Plants: Low Maintenance Landscaping and Gardening. Robert G. Haehle and Joan Brookwell. 2004 (revised edition). Taylor Trade Publishing. ISBN 1589790510.

