

Morrow's honeysuckle

Lonicera morrowii

Description

Common in urban areas and also occurs in rural areas where it was recommended for wildlife until its invasive traits became apparent; forms dense thickets; reduces tree and shrub regeneration, decreases overall plant diversity.

Habit

Deciduous upright to spreading shrub growing up to 1.8 m (6 ft) tall; shallow roots.

Leaves

Simple, opposite, elliptical to oblong, 3-6 cm (1-2.4 in) long, gray-green, softly hairy beneath, leaf out early, long growing season.

Stems

Multiple stems; numerous arching branches; older branches often hollow; bark is gray or tan, shaggy.

Flowers

Small, white in color, tubular, paired, hairy,





fragrant, borne on hairy stalks (0.5-1.5 cm long)
arising from the leaf axils; blooms May through
June.

Fruits and Seeds

Fruits are red and paired, dispersed by birds.

Habitat

Sun and shade tolerant; occurs in a variety of soil and moisture conditions; commonly found along roadsides and on disturbed sites; invades forest, savannas, and prairies.

Reproduction

By seeds dispersed by birds.

Similar

Natives Canadian fly honeysuckle (*L. canadensis*), Twinberry honeysuckle (*L. involucrate*), Swamp fly honeysuckle (*L. oblongifolia*) and Mountain fly honeysuckle (*L. villosa*) are comparatively short and sparse and lack hollow stems on older branches. Non-native privet species (*Ligustrum* spp.) have flowers and berries at the ends of their branches, not in the leaf axils.

Monitoring and Rapid Response

Monitor sunny, upland sites and open forests in spring as non-native honeysuckle leafs out before natives. Begin control efforts in highest quality areas; hand pull or dig small plants, removing all roots; target large, fruit-bearing plants for control/removal; foliar spray may be effective for large populations where few natives are present; treat cut stumps with herbicide; basal bark treatment is also effective, spray bottom 18 inches of all stems. Where fuel is present, prescribed fire may provide effective control of seedlings in fire adapted communities.

Credits

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Identification Guide to Invasive Plants in Michigan's Natural Communities" and "A Field Guide to Invasive Plants of Aquatic and Wetland Habitats for Michigan.