

Japanese Honeysuckle *Lonicera japonica*



Description: Japanese honeysuckle is a semi-evergreen scrambling, twisting vine with no tendrils or aerial roots. The leaves are light green, somewhat pubescent and opposite. They are simple, ovate to oval, though occasionally lobed. Flowers are fragrant, 1/2 to 1 inch long with white or yellowish-white long petals that bloom in pairs in late May to early June. The fruit is a small (1/4 inch diameter), black berry, which ripens in the fall and persists into early winter. The plant's twigs are slender and light brown in color, with scaly thin bark and hollow pith. The light red-brown to straw-colored bark is forms long peeling strips. It forms dense thickets in bushes and trees and sprawls along the ground.

Control Methods:

1. Hand pulling

For small patches, repeated pulling of entire vines and root systems may be effective. Pull seedlings and young plants when the soil is moist, holding low on the stem to remove the whole plant and its roots. Monitor the area frequently and remove any new plants. Cut any vines that are growing up trees. Cut the vine high above the ground, so it can not re-root.

2. Mowing

Mowing large patches of honeysuckle may be useful if repeated regularly and is most effective when combined with herbicide application (see below). Mow at least twice a year, first in mid-July and again in mid-September.

3. Foliar Spray

In moderate cold climates, Japanese honeysuckle leaves continue to photosynthesize long after most other plants have lost their leaves. This allows for application of herbicides when many native species are dormant. However, for effective control with herbicides, healthy green leaves must be present at time of application and temperatures must be sufficient for plant activity. Several systemic herbicides such as glyphosate (Roundup[®] for uplands and Rodeo[®] for wetlands) and triclopyr (Garlon[®] 3A) have been used effectively in foliar applications on Japanese honeysuckle.