



Exotic Bush Honeysuckles

Lonicera fragrantissima (fragrant honeysuckle), *L. maackii* (Amur honeysuckle), *L. Morrowii* (Morrow's honeysuckle), *L. standishii* (Standish's honeysuckle), *L. tatarica* (Tartarian honeysuckle), *L. xylosteum* (European fly honeysuckle), *L. X bella* (hybrid, pretty honeysuckle) and possibly others.

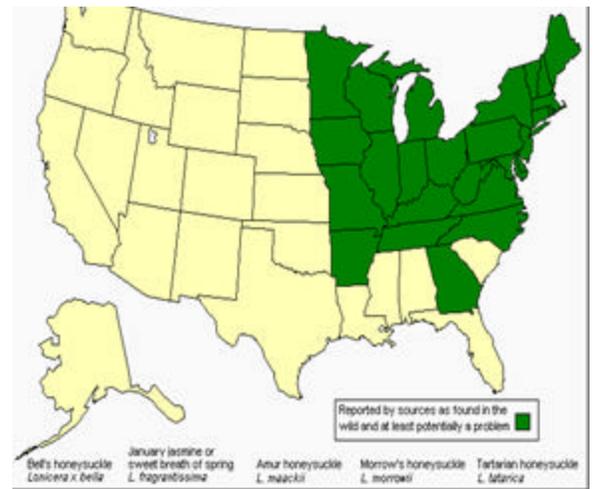
DESCRIPTION: Exotic bush honeysuckles are native of Eurasia. The plants are upright, generally deciduous shrubs that range from 6 to 15 feet in height. The 1-2 ½ inch, egg-shaped leaves are opposite along the stem and short-stalked. Older stems are often hollow. Pairs of fragrant, tubular flowers less than an inch long are borne along the stem in the leaf axils. Flower color varies from creamy white to pink or crimson in some varieties of

Tartarian honeysuckle. The fruits are red to orange, many-seeded berries. Native bush honeysuckles may be confused with these exotic species and cultivars, so proper identification is necessary. Unlike the exotics, most of our native bush honeysuckles have solid stems.

ECOLOGICAL THREAT: Exotic bush honeysuckles can rapidly invade and overtake a site, forming a dense shrub layer that crowds and shades out native plant species. They alter habitats by decreasing light availability, by depleting soil moisture and nutrients, and possibly by releasing toxic chemicals that prevent other plant species from growing in the vicinity. Exotic bush honeysuckles may compete with native bush honeysuckles for pollinators, resulting in reduced seed set for native species. In addition, the fruits of exotic bush honeysuckles, while abundant and rich in carbohydrates, do not offer migrating birds the high-fat, nutrient-rich food sources needed for long flights, that are supplied by native plant species.

DISTRIBUTION IN THE UNITED STATES: Amur, Tartarian, Morrow's, and pretty honeysuckle generally range from the central Great Plains to southern New England and south to Tennessee and North Carolina. The remaining species are sporadically distributed.

HABITAT IN THE UNITED STATES: Exotic bush honeysuckles are relatively **shade-intolerant** and most often occur in forest edge, abandoned field, pasture, roadsides and other open, upland habitats. Woodlands, especially those that have been grazed or otherwise disturbed may also be invaded by exotic bush honeysuckles. Morrow's honeysuckle and pretty honeysuckle have the greatest habitat breadth and are capable of invading bogs, fens, lakeshores, sand plains and other uncommon habitat types.



CURRENT MANAGEMENT APPROACHES: Mechanical and chemical methods are the primary means of control of exotic bush honeysuckles. No biological control agents are currently available for these plants. Hand removal of seedlings or small plants may be useful for light infestations. Seedlings of exotic bush honeysuckles can also be controlled by application of a systemic herbicide. Prescribed burning has shown some promise for exotic bush honeysuckles growing in open habitats. In all instances, control should be initiated prior to the seed dispersal period (late summer to early autumn) to minimize reinvasion of treated habitats.

References: <http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/map/loni1.htm>

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