

Impacts: Exotic bush honeysuckles can invade and overtake a site, forming a dense shrub layer that crowds and shades out native plants. They alter habitats by decreasing light availability and depleting moisture and nutrients in the soil. Exotic bush honeysuckles may compete with native bush honeysuckles for pollinators.



Suspected Means of Introduction: Bush honeysuckles were introduced to the United States as an ornamental bush. They were also planted for wildlife cover and ground stabilization.

BioBullies

Bush Honeysuckles

Amur	(<i>Lonicera maackii</i>)
Bell's	(<i>L. x bella</i>)
Dwarf	(<i>L. xylosteum</i>)
Fragrant	(<i>L. fragrantissima</i>)
Morrow's	(<i>L. morrowii</i>);
Standish's	(<i>L. standishii</i>)
Tartarian	(<i>L. tatarica</i>)



Description: Bush honeysuckles are deciduous shrubs ranging from 6 to 15 feet tall with smooth oval leaves that are 1 to 2 1/2 inches in length. The tubular flowers bloom in early-to-late spring, and range in color from white and yellow to shades of red (depending on the species). The berries grow in pairs and can vary from red to orange in color. One distinguishing characteristic of bush honeysuckles that separates them from the native version is a hollow stem.

Native Range: Japan, China, Korea, Turkey and Russia

Bush Honeysuckles

Resources for Identification and Control of Bush Honeysuckles

Headwaters Invasive Plant Partnership

University of Illinois Extension - Champaign, Ford, Iroquois, and Vermilion Counties

Plant Profile Database - USDA

Weed of the Week - USDA Forest Service

Midwest Invasive Plant Network



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Habitat: Bush honeysuckles need sun to survive and are commonly found along forest edges, fields, pastures, roadsides and other open areas.

Biology: In open areas bush honeysuckles can reproduce vegetatively from the root system of an established plant. Also, the berries are attractive to birds, making the spreading of seeds over a distance possible.

Control Methods: Hand removal of seedlings or small plants may be useful for smaller growths. In shaded forest habitats, bush honeysuckles do not grow as readily. Therefore, repeated clippings near the ground help kill the plant. The clipping of bush honeysuckle plants must be repeated at least once yearly. If the plants are cut once and left to grow, they will often form stands that become denser than prior to the initial cutting.