



# Invasive Plant Atlas of New England

## Catalog of Species Search Results



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## *Lonicera maackii* (Amur honeysuckle )

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### COMMON NAME

Amur honeysuckle

### FULL SCIENTIFIC NAME

*Lonicera maackii* (Rupr.) Herder

### FAMILY NAME COMMON

Honeysuckle family

### FAMILY SCIENTIFIC NAME

Caprifoliaceae

### IMAGES



Flowers on branch



Flowers on branch



Close-up of flowers



Habit (with dog for scale)



Fruits Close-up



Incursion

## NOMENCLATURE/SYNONYMS

**Synonyms:** None

## DESCRIPTION

### Botanical Glossary

*Lonicera maackii* is a woody perennial shrub that can grow up to 5 m (16.5 ft.) in height. The oppositely arranged leaves are ovate to lance-ovate in shape and measure 3.5 to 8.5 cm (1.3-3.3 in.) long. The tips of the leaves are acuminate. The leaves are dark green above and lighter on the lower surface. The veins of the leaves are pubescent.

The white flowers are found in erect pairs that are on peduncles shorter than the petioles. The flowers measure 1.5-2 cm (0.6-0.75 in.) long and are bilabiate. The flowers appear on the plant from late May to early June, which is later than the other honeysuckles. The fruit are dark red in color, spherical in shape and measure 6 mm (0.25 in.) in diameter. The fruit become ripe on the plant in the late fall.

Page References Bailey 943, Gleason & Cronquist 509, Holmgren 479, Magee & Ahles 963. See reference section below for full citations.

## SIMILAR SPECIES

*Lonicera x bella* Zabel (Bell's honeysuckle)  
*L. morrowii* Gray (Morrow's honeysuckle)  
*L. tartarica* L. (Tartarian honeysuckle)  
*L. xylosteum* L. (Dwarf honeysuckle)  
*Lonicera* spp. (Native bush honeysuckles)

### Link to the key of exotic honeysuckles

The key above does not include the native bush honeysuckles. One way to differentiate between the invasive bush honeysuckles and the native ones is that the twigs of non-native honeysuckles all have hollow stems, while the stems of the native ones are solid.

## REPRODUCTIVE/DISPERSAL MECHANISMS

*Lonicera maackii* is mainly dispersed by birds and possibly by small mammals.

## DISTRIBUTION

*Lonicera maackii* is native to China, Korea and Japan. In the United States, this plant has been reported from the east coast west to Texas, Kansas, Nebraska and North Dakota. In New England, this plant is present in Connecticut and Massachusetts.

## HISTORY OF INTRODUCTION IN NEW ENGLAND

*Lonicera maackii* was introduced from East Asia into cultivation in St. Petersburg, Russia, in 1883. It was subsequently grown in Germany, and was first introduced from Germany into North America in Ottawa, Canada in 1896. The plant first made its way into the United States in 1897 via seeds sent to the Arnold Arboretum from St. Petersburg. The seeds of this plant were later also sent from Washington D.C. to many places throughout the country, including the New York Botanical Gardens in 1898 (the purpose of sending these seeds out was to test the plant's success or failure). It was first reported as being weedy by Morton Arboretum near Chicago in 1924, but this warning seems to have gone unnoticed.

Escape from garden plantings was just one of the ways this plant made its way out onto the landscape. The USDA Soil Conservation Service encouraged the planting of *Lonicera maackii* from the 1960s to 1984 for soil stabilization and food and cover for wildlife.

## HABITATS IN NEW ENGLAND

Abandoned Field  
Early Successional Forest  
Edge  
Floodplain Forest  
Open Disturbed Area  
Pasture  
Planted Forest  
Roadside  
Utility Right-of-Way  
Vacant Lot  
Yard or Garden

*Lonicera maackii* can tolerate full sun to partial shade conditions. It can be found as an early successional plant or in mixed forests. Though it grows on many soil types, it grows best in calcareous situations.

## THREATS

*Lonicera maackii* can form large stands that prevent native shrubs and herbaceous understory plants from growing. The fruits persist on the branches into the winter, when birds feed on them. In the spring, *Lonicera maackii* is one of the first plants to leaf out, giving it a competitive advantage. This shrub can bear fruit when it is as young as 3 to 5 years old. Though *Lonicera maackii* has not yet become a major problem in New England, it is very troublesome in the southern and midwestern parts of the country.

## MANAGEMENT LINKS

[Illinois Natural History Survey](#)

General description and management guidelines.

[The Nature Conservancy](#)

[Virginia Native Plant Society](#)

[Plant Conservation Alliance fact sheet](#)

Includes management information.

## DOCUMENTATION NEEDS

Documentation required: A photograph or mounted snippet of the branch with leaves, flowers or fruits.

Best time for documentation: Late spring, summer, fall.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Integrated Taxonomic Information System](#)

Taxonomic information about the species

[The PLANTS database](#)

General information and map

[The Nature Conservancy](#)

Extensive description and control information on the bush honeysuckles.

[Plant Conservation Alliance](#)

Fact sheet on the bush honeysuckles.

[Virginia Native Plant Society](#)

Fact sheet on the bush honeysuckles.

[University of Connecticut Plants Database](#)

General information and many photographs

[Ohio Perennial and Biennial Weed Guide](#)

Pictures and descriptive information on *L. maackii*, *L. morrowii* and *L. tartarica*.

[Virginia Tech Dendrology](#)

Description and photographs

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## DATA RETRIEVAL

Select a task by clicking the radio button and then click "Submit Selection."

- Formatted display as table
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## MAPS OF PLANT DISTRIBUTION IN NEW ENGLAND

Select a study area by clicking the radio button and then click "Submit Selection."

- The whole New England area
- One or more states
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- One or more towns (county sub-divisions)

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