



## Invasive Plant Atlas of New England

### Catalog of Species Search Results



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## *Lonicera tatarica*

(Tatarian honeysuckle )

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### COMMON NAME

Tatarian honeysuckle

### FULL SCIENTIFIC NAME

*Lonicera tatarica* L.

### FAMILY NAME COMMON

Honeysuckle family

### FAMILY SCIENTIFIC NAME

Caprifoliaceae

### IMAGES



Light Pink  
Flower Form



Rose Color  
Flower Form



Flowers and  
leaves

### NOMENCLATURE/SYNONYMS

**Synonyms:** None

### DESCRIPTION

### Botanical Glossary

*Lonicera tatarica* is a woody perennial shrub that grows to 3 m (10 ft.) in height. The stems of this plant are hollow. The oppositely arranged leaves are ovate to oblong in shape and measure 3-6 cm (1-2.25 in.) long. The bases of the leaves are subcordate to truncate in shape. The lower surface of the leaves and the young twigs are glabrous, or nearly so.

The flowers are pink to almost red (rarely white) in color. The shape of the flower is irregularly and deeply 5-lobed. The flowers measure 2-2.5 cm (0.75-1 in.) long and are borne in pairs on axillary peduncles. The corolla is glabrous on its outer surface. The flowers appear from late May to June. The paired fruits of *Lonicera tatarica* are red (rarely yellow) and spherical in shape, measuring 6 mm (0.25 in.) in diameter. These fruit appear from mid-summer to early fall.

Page References Bailey 943, Crow & Hellquist 375, Fernald 1333, Gleason & Cronquist 509, Holmgren 478, Magee & Ahles 963, Newcomb 294. See reference section below for full citations.

### **SIMILAR SPECIES**

*Lonicera tatarica* *tibetica* Zabel (Bell's honeysuckle - a hybrid between *L. morrowii* and *L. tatarica*)

*L. morrowii* Gray (Morrow's honeysuckle)

*L. maackii* (Rupr.) Herder (Amur 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 invasive honeysuckles all have hollow stems, while the stems of the native ones are solid.

### **REPRODUCTIVE/DISPERSAL MECHANISMS**

The seeds in the fruit of *Lonicera tatarica* are mainly dispersed by birds.

### **DISTRIBUTION**

*Lonicera tatarica* is native to Central Asia and Southern Russia. In the United States it has been reported from the northeast down to Virginia and west to Montana and Nevada. It is present in all the states of New England, but it is more commonly encountered away from cultivation in the northern states.

### **HISTORY OF INTRODUCTION IN NEW ENGLAND**

*Lonicera tatarica* was introduced into cultivation in North America in 1752. It was used as a popular landscape plant and most likely made its way into New England by being planted in gardens, as well as being spread by birds.

## 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

In its native range, *Lonicera tatarica* grows in a variety of habitats including forests, mountains and swamps. In the United States, this plant has shown the same adaptable tendency. It can be found along rivers, roads and in open canopy forests. It can tolerate different light regimes, but grows most profusely in full sun.

## THREATS

In some cases *Lonicera tatarica* can form extremely dense stands where it has escaped from cultivation. These dense stands suppress the growth of other native species. In New England it seems to be less aggressive than *L. morrowii* and *L. πbella*. However, the difficulty with identifying the different honeysuckles has had an impact on how well understood the impact of each individual species is on the landscape.

## MANAGEMENT LINKS

[The Nature Conservancy](#)

[Virginia Native Plant Society](#)

[Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources](#)

[Illinois Natural History Survey](#)

General description and management guidelines

[Plant Conservation Alliance fact sheet](#)

Includes management information.

## DOCUMENTATION NEEDS

Documentation required: Herbarium specimen or mounted snippet of the branch with flowers.

Best time for documentation: Spring, summer

## **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Integrated Taxonomic Information System

Taxonomic information about the species

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.

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

Descriptive and control information about the bush honeysuckles.

University of Connecticut Plants Database

General information and many photographs

Invasive Plants of Ohio

Fact sheet with information on *L. maackii*, *L. morrowii* and *L. tatarica*

Ohio Perennial and Biennial Weed Guide

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

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## DATA RETRIEVAL

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

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## MAPS OF PLANT DISTRIBUTION IN NEW ENGLAND

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

- The whole New England area

- One or more states
- One or more counties
- One or more towns (county sub-divisions)

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