



Invasive Plant Atlas of New England

Catalog of Species Search Results



[:: Catalog of Species Search](#)



Lonicera x bella

(Bell's honeysuckle
Bella honeysuckle)

[Common Name\(s\)](#) | [Full Scientific Name](#) | [Family Name Common](#) | [Family Scientific Name](#) | [Images](#) | [Synonyms](#) | [Description](#) | [Similar Species](#) | [Reproductive/Dispersal Mechanisms](#) | [Distribution](#) | [History of Introduction in New England](#) | [Habitats in New England](#) | [Threats](#) | [Early Warning Notes](#) | [Management Links](#) | [Documentation Needs](#) | [Additional Information](#) | [References](#) | [Data Retrieval](#) | [Maps of New England Plant Distribution](#)

COMMON NAME

Bell's honeysuckle
Bella honeysuckle

FULL SCIENTIFIC NAME

Lonicera x bella Zabel

FAMILY NAME COMMON

Honeysuckle family

FAMILY SCIENTIFIC NAME

Caprifoliaceae

IMAGES



Branch with
flowers



Flower close-up



Fruit on branch



Species Habit
 comparisons:
 Left: *L.*
morrowii,
 Center: *L. x*
bella, Right: *L.*
tatarica

NOMENCLATURE/SYNONYMS

Synonyms: None

DESCRIPTION

Botanical Glossary

Lonicera π *bella* is the hybrid of *L. tartarica* and *L. morrowii*. Identification of this plant is difficult because of its many intermediate characteristics. *Lonicera* π *bella* tends to be a taller plant than either of its parents, and can reach 6 m (20 ft.) in height. The young stems of this plant are hollow and are sparsely pubescent. The oppositely leaves are slightly pubescent on their lower surface. The leaves are ovate to ovate-elliptic in shape, measuring 3-6 cm (1-2.5 in.) long. The leaf bases are rounded or subcordate.

Due to the presence of backcrossed individuals, the characters of the flowers of *Lonicera* π *bella* are quite variable. The flowers of *Lonicera* π *bella* are usually pink in color, often fading to yellow. They measure 1.5-2 cm (0.6-0.75 in.) in size. The flowers are on peduncles that are longer than the subtending petioles, measuring approximately 1 cm (0.4 in.) long. The outside of the corolla of the flower is usually glabrous. The bracteoles are half as long as the ovary when the flower is fully open. Flowers appear on this plant from May to early June. The berries are spherical, red in color and found in pairs. The fruit ripen in late summer or early fall. The seeds are rather flat and ovate in shape.

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

SIMILAR SPECIES

Lonicera morrowii Gray (Morrow's honeysuckle)
L. tartarica L. (Tartarian 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 fruits of *Lonicera* π *bella* are dispersed by birds.

DISTRIBUTION

Since the parent plants of *Lonicera* π *bella* have native ranges that do not overlap, this hybrid was first observed in botanical gardens in Europe. In the United States, it has been reported from the Northeastern states, south to South Carolina and west to Minnesota and Illinois. This plant has been observed in all the states of New England.

HISTORY OF INTRODUCTION IN NEW ENGLAND

The history of introduction of this plant is related to the history of introduction of *L. morrowii* and *L. tatarica*. Deliberate hybridizations of this plant were made in Russia before 1889. It is not clear whether the hybrid was deliberately introduced or if the parents were introduced and the parents then hybridized in the United States.

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

Like its parents, *Lonicera* π *bella* is adaptable to a wide variety of habitats ranging from open forests to fields and roadsides. It can tolerate various moisture and light regimes as well.

THREATS

The "hybrid swarm" of *L. morrowii*, *L. tatarica* and *L. π bella* causes a complicated situation in natural habitats. Regardless of which plant is actually present, all of these plants form dense stands that can suppress the growth of native species of plants. Thus, ecologically, these plants all appear to be very similar in their effects.

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 including management information

DOCUMENTATION NEEDS

Documentation required: A specific photograph of a close-up of the flowers or mounted snippet of the flowers.

Best time for documentation: Late spring.

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.

[Wisconsin State Herbarium](#)

Image and brief description about this plant in Wisconsin

REFERENCES

Bailey, L. H. 1949. Manual of Cultivated Plants. Macmillan, New York.

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Gleason H.A. and A.C. Cronquist. 1991. Manual of Vascular Plants of the Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada. 2nd ed. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York.

Holmgren N.H. 1998. Illustrated Companion to Gleason and Cronquist's Manual. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York.

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

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