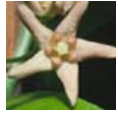




Invasive Plant Atlas of New England

Catalog of Species Search Results



[:: Catalog of Species Search](#)



Lonicera xylosteum

(Dwarf honeysuckle
European fly 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

Dwarf honeysuckle
European fly honeysuckle

FULL SCIENTIFIC NAME

Lonicera xylosteum L.

FAMILY NAME COMMON

Honeysuckle family

FAMILY SCIENTIFIC NAME

Caprifoliaceae

IMAGES



Immature Fruit



Habit



Mature fruit

NOMENCLATURE/SYNONYMS

Synonyms: None

DESCRIPTION

Botanical Glossary

Lonicera xylosteum is a woody, perennial shrub that is 1-2 m (3-7 ft.) tall. The pubescent stems of this plant are hollow. The oppositely arranged, gray-green leaves are usually obovate in shape, but can be ovate or oval; they are broadest beyond the middle. The apex of the leaf is usually obtuse, but can be acute and the base of the leaf is subcordate to narrowed. The upper leaf surface is glabrous when mature while the lower leaf surface is pubescent. The leaves measure 2.5-7.5 cm (1-3 in.) in length.

The yellow-white flowers are borne in pairs on peduncles that are longer than the petioles. The corolla of the flower is pubescent and conspicuously 2-lipped. The flowers appear in late May to early June. The fruit are scarlet, spherical berries that are borne in pairs. They usually measure 6 mm (0.25 in.) in diameter and ripen in the late summer to early fall.

Page References Bailey 944, Fernald 1333, Gleason & Cronquist 509, Holmgren 479, Magee & Ahles 963, Newcomb 104. 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. maackii (Rupr.) Herder (Amur honeysuckle)

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 fruit of *Lonicera xylosteum*, similar to the other shrubby honeysuckles, is dispersed by birds.

DISTRIBUTION

The native range of *Lonicera xylosteum* is in Europe, east to Turkey and the European part of Russia. In the United States it has been reported from all the northeastern states, south to Virginia, and West to Missouri and Minnesota. It has also been reported in Oregon. *Lonicera xylosteum* has been reported from all of the New England states.

HISTORY OF INTRODUCTION IN NEW ENGLAND

Lonicera xylosteum has long been cultivated, and there is no known date for its first introduction into this country. It was most likely introduced for use as a horticultural plant, and spread via plantings and bird dispersal.

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 xylosteum can be found along the edges of woods and in open canopy forests. Like the other shrubby honeysuckles, it is tolerant of a wide range of soil conditions, and is used in for landscaping in difficult spots. It prefers full sun, but can also tolerate low light conditions.

THREATS

Lonicera xylosteum has not yet become prominent on the New England landscape. However, it has the potential to form large thickets that would suppress the growth of native shrubs and herbaceous plants. More information is necessary to assess the status of this species in this region.

MANAGEMENT LINKS

[Virginia Native Plant Society](#)

[Plant Conservation Alliance](#)
Fact sheet with 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

[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

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DATA RETRIEVAL

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Submit Selection

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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