

# JAPANESE HONEYSUCKLE

[*Lonicera japonica* Thunb.]  
LOJA



UGA2307154

**Habit:** Perennial, semi-evergreen to evergreen<sup>9,3,5</sup> vine that trails or climbs to 7 m (23 ft).<sup>15</sup>

**Reproduction:** Vegetatively; stem cuttings;<sup>1</sup> by seed;<sup>12,21,11,3,30</sup> may be pollinator limited;<sup>1,16,5,22</sup> obligatory outcrosser.<sup>16</sup>

**Leaves:** Opposite, entire, oblong, 4-8 cm (1½-3¼ in); base round/triangular; may have lobes or teeth; lower surface often lighter green than upper; surfaces may have a few hairs. <sup>9,15,5</sup>

**Stems:** Young stems pubescent, reddish/light-brown;<sup>9,15,12</sup> climber internodes shorter in length than those of trailers.<sup>28</sup>

**Flowers:** May-June;<sup>15,21,16</sup> white-cream-pink,<sup>15,12</sup> yellows with age;<sup>21,15</sup> 2.5-3.8 cm (1-1½ in), 2 reflexed lips; stamens extend beyond lips; paired at each node;<sup>15</sup> fragrant,<sup>19</sup> tubular, pubescent inside<sup>11</sup> with glandular hairs bearing nectar;<sup>22</sup> open at dusk, maximizing visits from diurnal (bees) and nocturnal (moths) pollinators; nocturnal pollinators disperse pollen further;<sup>19</sup> may be best adapted for hawkmoths,<sup>16,20</sup> which are attracted to rhythmic linalool emission (highest first midnight of 2-day flowering period<sup>20</sup>); diurnal pollinators remove more pollen but with less efficiency than hawkmoths.<sup>19</sup>

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*Lonicera japonica* Thunb.

**Fruits/Seeds:** September-October;<sup>15,21</sup> black, glossy fruit 0.6 cm (1/4 in) long<sup>15,12</sup> with 4-10 brown-black seeds;<sup>15</sup> viability may be low;<sup>13</sup> dispersed by deer, rabbits, bobwhites, turkeys,<sup>10</sup> and other birds.<sup>15</sup>

**Habitat:** Woods, fields, disturbed areas, roadsides, bottomlands, and fence rows;<sup>12, 21, 27</sup> tolerates shade but most growth in full sun; rarely flowers in low light;<sup>23</sup> not as shade tolerant as some native vines;<sup>4</sup> sensitive to dry conditions;<sup>2</sup> responds positively to an increase in CO<sub>2</sub>;<sup>24</sup> USDA hardiness zones 4-9.<sup>9</sup>

**Comments:** Native to E. Asia;<sup>12</sup> introduced into the U.S. in mid 1800s<sup>17,26</sup> for horticultural purposes and soil stabilization;<sup>15</sup> negative impacts (lower leaf N, photosynthesis, growth) on a native host all primarily due to root competition;<sup>6,7,8</sup> diploid; less genetic diversity than *L. sempervirens* (tetraploid, native vine);<sup>25</sup> greater annual carbon gain than this native;<sup>27</sup> forage for deer,<sup>31,29</sup> but this native preferred; herbivory increases growth;<sup>26</sup> anti-inflammatory<sup>18</sup> and anti-bacterial/viral properties;<sup>14</sup> 6 cultivars.<sup>9</sup>

**Similar Native Species:** *L. sempervirens*; leaves glaucous (both surfaces), flowers terminal, and connate terminal leaves.<sup>12,21</sup>