**Lonicera morrowii**
(Morrow's honeysuckle)

**COMMON NAME**
Morrow's honeysuckle

**FULL SCIENTIFIC NAME**
*Lonicera morrowii* Gray

**FAMILY NAME COMMON**
Honeysuckle family

**FAMILY SCIENTIFIC NAME**
Caprifoliaceae

**IMAGES**

- Flowers
- Fruit
- Habit
- Flowers
- Incursion

**NOMENCLATURE/SYNONYMS**
Synonyms: None

DESCRIPTION

Botanical Glossary

*Lonicera morrowii* is a woody, perennial shrub that reaches 2.5 m (8 ft.) in height. The stems of this shrub are hollow. The oppositely arranged leaves are oblong to narrowly elliptic in shape and measure 2.5-6.3 cm (1-2.5 in.) long. The apexes of the leaves are usually obtuse, but can be somewhat acute. The leaves are grayish and tomentose on their lower surface.

The peduncles are 5-15 mm (0.2-0.6 in.) in length and very hairy. The bractlets, sepals and corolla are also pubescent. The bracteoles are more than half as long as the ovary when the flower is fully open. The paired flowers of *Lonicera morrowii* measure 1.25 cm (0.5 in.) long and are usually white, fading to yellow with age. The flowers appear on this plant from late May to early June. The fruits are red spherical berries measuring 6 mm (0.25 in.) in diameter, and like the flowers they are borne in pairs. These berries appear in mid-summer and are usually gone in the fall.


SIMILAR SPECIES

*Lonicera x bella* Zabel (Bell'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 the stems of the native ones are solid.

REPRODUCTIVE/DISPERSAL MECHANISMS

The seeds of *Lonicera morrowii* are mainly dispersed by birds which eat the fruits.

DISTRIBUTION

*Lonicera morrowii* is native to Japan. In the United States it has been reported from the east coast, south to South Carolina and west to Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri and Arkansas, as well as Wyoming, Colorado and New Mexico. In New England it has been
reported from all states.

HISTORY OF INTRODUCTION IN NEW ENGLAND

*Lonicera morrowii* was discovered on a trip by Dr. James Morrow in Japan from 1862 to 1864. The plants were sent to Asa Gray in Cambridge, Massachusetts, who consequently named the plant after its collector. Sometime after this, around 1875, the plant was introduced into cultivation. It is likely that the plant was directly introduced into New England through plantings.

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 morrowii* can be found in a wide variety of habitats ranging from fields to open forests. It prefers mesic soils, but grows well in dry, sandy soils in calcareous areas.

THREATS

*Lonicera morrowii* can form thickets that prevent other native plants from getting established. It hybridizes with *L. tatarica* to form the hybrid *L. x bella*, which is also extremely invasive. It can then subsequently backcross with the hybrid forming a "hybrid swarm." It is easily spread by birds because of its persistent fruits that ripen in mid-summer.

MANAGEMENT LINKS

- The Nature Conservancy
- Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Virginia Native Plant Society
- The Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group
  Invasive Plant Management Guide
- Illinois Natural History Survey
  General description and management guidelines.
- Plant Conservation Alliance
Fact sheet with management information

**DOCUMENTATION NEEDS**

Documentation required: Mounted snippet of the branch with flowers.
Best time for documentation: 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

Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
Description and control information

University of Connecticut Plants Database
General information and many photographs

Ohio Perennial and Biennial Weed Guide
Pictures and descriptive information

Virginia Tech Dendrology
Description and photographs

**REFERENCES**


of the Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada. 2nd ed. New York Botanical Garden, Bronx, New York.


DATA RETRIEVAL

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

- Formatted display as table
- Export as comma-delimited text file

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)

Submit Selection