

What strangles, smothers, and kills vegetation throughout the landscape?

The Culprit: Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)



Japanese honeysuckle aggressively invades natural areas.

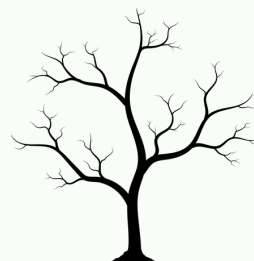
Japanese honeysuckle was first planted in North America as a fragrant ornamental vine on Long Island, New York in 1806.

Now we know =>

Japanese honeysuckle damages forest communities by outcompeting native vegetation for light and soil resources, and by changing forest structure.

Why It's a Problem

- Inhibits the growth of desirable trees, shrubs, grasses, and wildflowers
- Engulfs small trees and shrubs, and strangles or topples large trees
- Hampers forest regeneration in both wild and timbered areas



What Does It Look Like?



Leaves are 1.5 to 3 inches long. Leaves are arranged in pairs directly opposite each other.



Younger stems are reddish brown to light brown and slightly hairy. Older stems have light brown to tan bark that peels in long strips.



The tubular flowers are sweetly fragrant and bloom in pairs on opposite sides of the stems from early summer into fall, most heavily in summer. Small green fruit, which ripens to black, may form after the flowers fade.



Once established, it can twist as high as 40 feet into a tree, damaging and even killing it. With age, the once slender vines can reach 4 inches in girth.

How Do I Control It?

- Individual small plants can be pulled by hand. However, all roots must be removed to prevent resprouting.
- Cut stump treatments can be utilized early summer into winter.
- Foliar herbicide treatment is best suited from autumn to early winter.



The cut stump method involves cutting the vines at ground level and then applying herbicide on the stump to prevent regrowth.

Additional Information

Blue Ridge PRISM

-- [Japanese Honeysuckle Fact Sheet](#)

-- [Resources on Invasive Plants](#)



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