

# BUSH HONEYSUCKLE INFO SHEET

There are four species of bush honeysuckle that are invasive to North America. Native to Asia, and used for landscaping, the now-invasive honeysuckle species include Amur honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*), Morrow's honeysuckle (*Lonicera morrowii*), Tartarian honeysuckle, (*Lonicera tatarica*) and Bell's honeysuckle (*Lonicera x bella*). All are deciduous shrubs that invade forests and displace native plants.



## You CAN Remove Honeysuckle from Your Land

### STEP 1. IDENTIFY



All the invasive honeysuckle species are deciduous shrubs with egg-shaped leaves (on opposite sides of the stem), fragrant flowers, and red or orange-red berries in late summer. Growing up to 15 feet high, these shrubs can be found in forests, fields, floodplains, and disturbed areas.

While it is difficult to distinguish one invasive honeysuckle variety from another, the most important thing to know is how to tell it apart from native honeysuckle, the American Honeysuckle (*Lonicera canadensis*). All of the invasive honeysuckle species found in the Champlain Valley have a hollow pith, while the American Honeysuckle has a solid white pith and is not typically as robust as the invasive types.



## STEP 2. REMOVE

Research has shown that shrub-nesting songbirds suffer a higher predation rate when they build their nests in invasive bush honeysuckle. The invasives feature trunks and branches that are sturdier and located closer to the ground than native shrubs, allowing small predatory mammals easier access to nests. Honeysuckle can form dense thickets, crowding out native woody species and shading out wildflowers and ferns. Invasive honeysuckle berries contain less nutrients than native shrubs, making them a poor food source for local and migrating birds.

Control: Early spring is a good time to remove honeysuckle, as its leaves appear before most native shrubs. You will want to remove the entire plant, including the roots, or the plant will resprout. Honeysuckle have shallow roots, so it is fairly easy to pull small to mid-size plants out of the ground, especially when the soil is damp. For larger plants you can use a weed wrench (seen below). Hanging honeysuckle on adjacent tree branches will prevent re-rooting.

If you are unable to remove the entire root system, cut the trunk at the base and wrap burlap or thick plastic over the stump to inhibit regrowth.



## STEP 3. MONITOR

Be vigilant. Inspect the infestation site each year to deal with any re-growth or missed Honeysuckle plants.

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### For more information:

Please give us a call at 802-862-4150 or visit [www.lclt.org/](http://www.lclt.org/)



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