

INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES IN ILLINOIS HABITATS - Woodlands: Forests, Timber, Windbreaks...

Amur Honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*)



Above: Plant noted for its thick and dense growth.

Right: Palmately compound leaves with notched leaflet apex.

NATIVE TO: Asia.

CURRENT DISTRIBUTION IN ILLINOIS: Extensively widespread throughout the state.

IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS: Woody shrub up to 15 ft tall. Leaves opposite simple up to 3 in long with a rounded base and tapering apex. Gray peeling bark as stems mature. White to yellowish fragrant flowers born in large numbers in late spring time.

IMPORTANCE: Honeysuckles are some of the first plants to leaf out in the spring time thereby establishing their dominance in the landscape. Quite tolerant of limited light. Spreads aggressively to crowd out native species. Studies have shown that migratory songbirds that nest in honeysuckles and buckthorn are more susceptible to predation.

HABITAT: Roadsides, forests, forest edges, meadows, and fence rows.

MANAGEMENT: Shallow roots can be dug out effectively. Cut stems resprout easily and should be treated with an herbicide. Fire has proven to be effective in fire-adapted habitats. Foliage can be sprayed in the early spring season, as it is one of the first to leaf out.



ILLINOIS COOPERATIVE AGRICULTURAL PEST SURVEY

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