

T INVASIVE PLANT SPECIES IN ILLINOIS HABITATS - Woodlands: Forests, Timber, Windbreaks... Tatarian Honeysuckle (*Lonicera tatarica*)



Above: Typical foliage.
Right: Plant with both red and orange fruit.

NATIVE TO: Asia and Southeastern Europe.

CURRENT DISTRIBUTION IN ILLINOIS: Extensively widespread throughout the state.

IDENTIFYING CHARACTERISTICS: Woody shrub upright, rounded, and spreading up to 12 ft tall. Leaves opposite simple up to 2½ in long somewhat oval and bluish green, somewhat flattened, or truncate, at the base. Gray peeling bark as stems mature. White, pink, or red, very 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.

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.

