

CENTRAL JERSEY INVASIVE SPECIES STRIKE TEAM

Invasive Plant Fact Sheet

Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)



Family name: Honeysuckle family (Caprifoliaceae)

Native range: Asia

General: Perennial, trailing or twining, semi-evergreen vine or groundcover. Stems and leaves are sometimes covered with fine, soft hairs. With age, vines become papery.

Leaves: Opposite, often untoothed but sometimes toothed or lobed. Both leaf types occur on one plant. Oblong to oval, leathery. 1 to 3 inches long.

Flowers: Fragrant, yellow, white or pinkish,

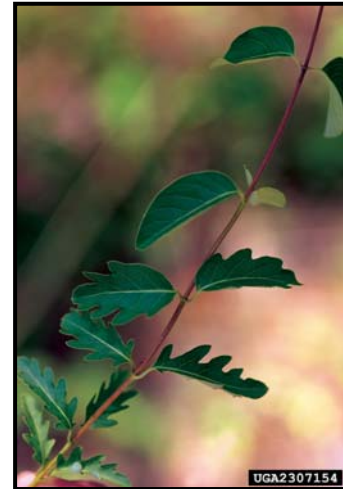
tubular with five fused petals appearing in pairs at the leaf axils. Blooming in late spring to July.

Fruit: Small, black appearing in autumn, each containing 2-3 oval to oblong, dark brown seeds about 1/4 inch across. Ripening in fall.

Look-alikes: Trumpet honeysuckle (*Lonicera sempervirens*) is a native vine honeysuckle with *clusters of red flowers borne at the end of each vine*.

Habitat: Forest, forest edge, field, hedgerow, yard, garden.

Threats to native habitats: Japanese honeysuckle is a fast growing vine and can girdle or smother shrubs and trees, completely shading them from the sun. In the absence of vegetation or other structures to climb, Japanese honeysuckle will create dense mats that prevent growth of other plant life.



NJ Status: Japanese honeysuckle is widespread in natural settings. This plant is *highly threatening* to natural plant communities. All newly detected occurrences should be eradicated.

Commercial Availability: Japanese honeysuckle is planted in landscaping and gardens.



Sources: Forestry Images: Forest Health, Natural Resources & Silviculture
Images: <http://www.forestryimages.org/>
<http://www.nps.gov/plants/alien/>
Rhoads, A.F. and T. Block. 2007. *Plants of Pennsylvania*. 2nd ed. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia, PA. p. 971.



Central Jersey Invasive Species Strike Team (CJISST) is a regional cooperative effort to detect, map, and manage emerging populations of invasive species. This initiative is a partnership of state, county, and municipal agencies, conservation groups, and private citizens. Please contact us: **Friends of Hopewell Valley Open Space**, (609) 730-1560, www.fohvos.org or **Upper Raritan Watershed Association**, (908) 234-1852, www.urwa.org.

