

JAPANESE HONEYSUCKLE

[*Lonicera japonica* Thunb.]
LOJA



UGA2307154

Habit: Perennial, semi-evergreen to evergreen^{9,3,5} vine that trails or climbs to 7 m (23 ft).¹⁵

Reproduction: Vegetatively; stem cuttings;¹ by seed;^{12,21,11,3,30} may be pollinator limited;^{1,16,5,22} obligatory outcrosser.¹⁶

Leaves: Opposite, entire, oblong, 4-8 cm (1½-3¼ in); base round/triangular; may have lobes or teeth; lower surface often lighter green than upper; surfaces may have a few hairs. ^{9,15,5}

Stems: Young stems pubescent, reddish/light-brown;^{9,15,12} climber internodes shorter in length than those of trailers.²⁸

Flowers: May-June;^{15,21,16} white-cream-pink,^{15,12} yellows with age;^{21,15} 2.5-3.8 cm (1-1½ in), 2 reflexed lips; stamens extend beyond lips; paired at each node;¹⁵ fragrant,¹⁹ tubular, pubescent inside¹¹ with glandular hairs bearing nectar;²² open at dusk, maximizing visits from diurnal (bees) and nocturnal (moths) pollinators; nocturnal pollinators disperse pollen further;¹⁹ may be best adapted for hawkmoths,^{16,20} which are attracted to rhythmic linalool emission (highest first midnight of 2-day flowering period²⁰); diurnal pollinators remove more pollen but with less efficiency than hawkmoths.¹⁹

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Fruits/Seeds: September-October;^{15,21} black, glossy fruit 0.6 cm (1/4 in) long^{15,12} with 4-10 brown-black seeds;¹⁵ viability may be low;¹³ dispersed by deer, rabbits, bobwhites, turkeys,¹⁰ and other birds.¹⁵

Habitat: Woods, fields, disturbed areas, roadsides, bottomlands, and fence rows;^{12, 21, 27} tolerates shade but most growth in full sun; rarely flowers in low light;²³ not as shade tolerant as some native vines;⁴ sensitive to dry conditions;² responds positively to an increase in CO₂;²⁴ USDA hardiness zones 4-9.⁹

Comments: Native to E. Asia;¹² introduced into the U.S. in mid 1800s^{17,26} for horticultural purposes and soil stabilization;¹⁵ negative impacts (lower leaf N, photosynthesis, growth) on a native host all primarily due to root competition;^{6,7,8} diploid; less genetic diversity than *L. sempervirens* (tetraploid, native vine);²⁵ greater annual carbon gain than this native;²⁷ forage for deer,^{31,29} but this native preferred; herbivory increases growth;²⁶ anti-inflammatory¹⁸ and anti-bacterial/viral properties;¹⁴ 6 cultivars.⁹

Similar Native Species: *L. sempervirens*; leaves glaucous (both surfaces), flowers terminal, and connate terminal leaves.^{12,21}