

## Asian Bush Honeysuckle

### *What is Asian Bush Honeysuckle?*

- Shrubs ranging in size from 5 to 20 (30) feet in height, white to yellow (pink) flowers, red to orange fruit
- There are several species, Amur, Tartarian, Morrow's, originally native to Asia
- Now widespread in Indiana

### *How did Asian Bush Honeysuckle get here?*

It was purposefully introduced

- as an ornamental plant and
- for erosion control
- and for wildlife plantings

### *How does Asian Bush Honeysuckle spread?*

- Becomes established first on forest edges & then spreads into the forest
- Birds feed on the colorful fruits and spread it into:
  - open woodlands
  - fence rows
  - recently disturbed areas
  - young second growth forest



Amur Honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*)  
(<http://plants.USDA.gov>)

### *Why is Asian Bush Honeysuckle a problem?*

It can form a continuous, unbroken understory canopy which

- Harms or excludes native forest plants such as:
  - herbaceous understory plants (including wildflowers)
  - shrubs (and the wildlife that are dependent on them)
- Negatively affects forest regeneration

### *How can you help control Asian Bush Honeysuckle?*

Learn to identify and control it on your own property and help to eradicate it on public property.\*

- The most effective method of controlling bush honeysuckle is to prevent its establishment.
- They are shallow-rooted so when small are easily pulled by hand.
- Cutting it down will not kill it, because it resprouts, but repeated cutting throughout the growing season will exhaust the shrub's root reserves and eventually starve it.
- Chemical means of control are also available (Please carefully follow directions for the use of such products.)
  - Smaller shrubs may be controlled by applying foliar herbicides
    - When native plants are dormant!!!
      - Early spring & Late fall
  - Larger shrubs may be treated by cutting the shrub and applying an herbicide to the cut stump surface.

*\*Please consult a forester or other vegetation management specialist for more information and assistance for controlling Asian bush honeysuckle or other invasive plants on your land.*

Rathfon, Ron. Fall 2006. Asian Bush Honeysuckle: An exotic invasive plant threatening Indiana's forests.

<http://www.fnr.purdue.edu/inwood/current%20issue/fall2006/Fall%202006%20Asian%20Bush%20Honeysuckle.htm>