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

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 its 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.

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