



## ▲ You can make a difference!

### TAKE ACTION NOW

Visit our website for detailed instructions to help you remove honeysuckle with these methods:

- Hand pull or dig out seedlings and small plants when soil is moist.
- Cut stems to ground level and immediately apply a specific herbicide\* to the cut surface. Without treatment, cut stems will resprout vigorously. Non-chemical treatment alternatives have also been suggested.
- Revisit later in the growing season or the following season to find any plants that were missed or resprouted. The leaves of resprouts should be sprayed with specific herbicides.

*\*When working with herbicides, carefully follow label instructions to protect yourself and the environment.*

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

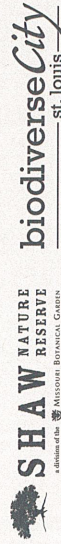
- Start by removing all bush honeysuckle from your property. Bush honeysuckle can be removed year round, but early spring and late fall are ideal times to identify them since they have leaves when native shrubs and trees do not.
- Volunteer to remove invasive species from county parks, trails, and natural areas.
- Replace bush honeysuckle with beautiful native and non-invasive alternatives.
- Visit our website to learn which alternatives are best suited to your landscaping needs.

For additional information distinguishing bush honeysuckle from native plants, landscaping alternatives, detailed control methods, and volunteer opportunities, visit

[www.mobot.org/invasives](http://www.mobot.org/invasives)



CENTER FOR CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT  
CCSD | MISSOURI BOTANICAL GARDEN



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st. louis

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## GOT HONEYSUCKLE?

# GET RID OF IT!

**invasive bush honeysuckle is a serious threat**

*Our woodlands and streams need your help!*

[www.mobot.org/invasives](http://www.mobot.org/invasives)



Invasive bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*) degrades our beautiful woodlands, fields, and stream banks into impenetrable thickets lacking ecological, economic, or recreational value.

## WHY IS IT A THREAT?

- Without intervention, small bush honeysuckle patches can rapidly develop into dense infestations that:
- Displace native and other desirable plants from our gardens and natural areas.
  - Reduce habitat for wildlife such as butterflies, which depend upon native plants for survival.
  - Threaten the future of our woodlands, as mature trees die without replacement.
  - Offer poor nutritional value for birds relative to fruits of native shrubs.
  - Increase tick abundance and exposure to tick borne illness due to higher deer concentrations.
  - Increase survival of mosquito larvae due to changes in water chemistry.
  - Prevent enjoyment of our woodlands and stream banks for hiking, birding, hunting and other outdoor recreation.

▶ Your honeysuckle privacy hedge is contributing to the invasion!

## DESCRIPTION

Invasive bush honeysuckles are most easily identified in the early spring, when they leaf-out earlier than native shrubs and trees, or in the fall, when they are still green after our native plants have mostly dropped their leaves. They are dense shrubs—3 to 15 feet tall— with opposite leaves and pairs of red or orange berries near the base of the leaves in fall.



Bush honeysuckle is readily apparent in early spring.

## ORIGIN AND INVASION

Invasive bush honeysuckles originated in Eurasia and Eastern Asia, and were introduced in the U.S. for ornamental landscaping, erosion control, and wildlife habitat. Unfortunately, bush honeysuckles self-seed aggressively in the garden and rapidly escape into natural areas. Although the fruits have poor nutritional value for wildlife, birds disperse them widely. Native vegetation is displaced as bush honeysuckle blocks sunlight and exudes chemicals into the soil that are toxic to other plants. Because landscaping was the primary source of invasion, bush honeysuckles are most concentrated near urban areas, but are rapidly spreading into rural areas.

