

September

Invasive of the Month



Japanese Honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)

The story is always the same with the majority of invasive species. Japanese honeysuckle was brought to the US in 1875 through the ornamental trade and was briefly used as an attempt to control erosion and stabilize streambanks. While its sweet, floral scent and unique tubular flowers attracted homeowners it quickly escaped cultivation. Now it can be found growing in disturbed areas, along roadsides, and other edge habitats. With a longer than normal growing season it shades out native plants and outcompetes for resources.

How to Identify:

Japanese honeysuckle is an evergreen, woody vine that can be found twinning along the forest floor or climbing up other vegetation. It has deep green, oppositely oriented, leaves that are slightly glossy on top and hairy on the underside. The fragrant, tubular flowers appear in the late spring and start as a crisp white color that fades to a buttery yellow. Honeysuckle fruits in the late fall, the berries are dark purple and are toxic if consumed in large quantities.

Invasive Species Program

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