

## Japanese Honeysuckle *Lonicera japonica*



Japanese honeysuckle—young leaves



Japanese honeysuckle—flowers



Japanese honeysuckle—fruit and mature leaves

**Plant:** Common twining or trailing woody vine. Leaves semi-evergreen and opposite. Flowers fragrant and white (to pink) to yellow. Fruit a black, spherical berry. Spreads via *rhizomes and seeds*.

**Stem:** Round, brown and hairy becoming light tan and smooth then fissured and sloughing with age. Opposite branching at nodes. Rooting at nodes near or on the ground.

**Leaves:** Opposite, mostly evergreen or tardily deciduous. Ovate to elliptic to oblong, 4-7 cm (1 5/8–2 3/4 in) long and 2–4 cm (3/4–1 5/8 in) wide. Base rounded with blunt to pointed tip.

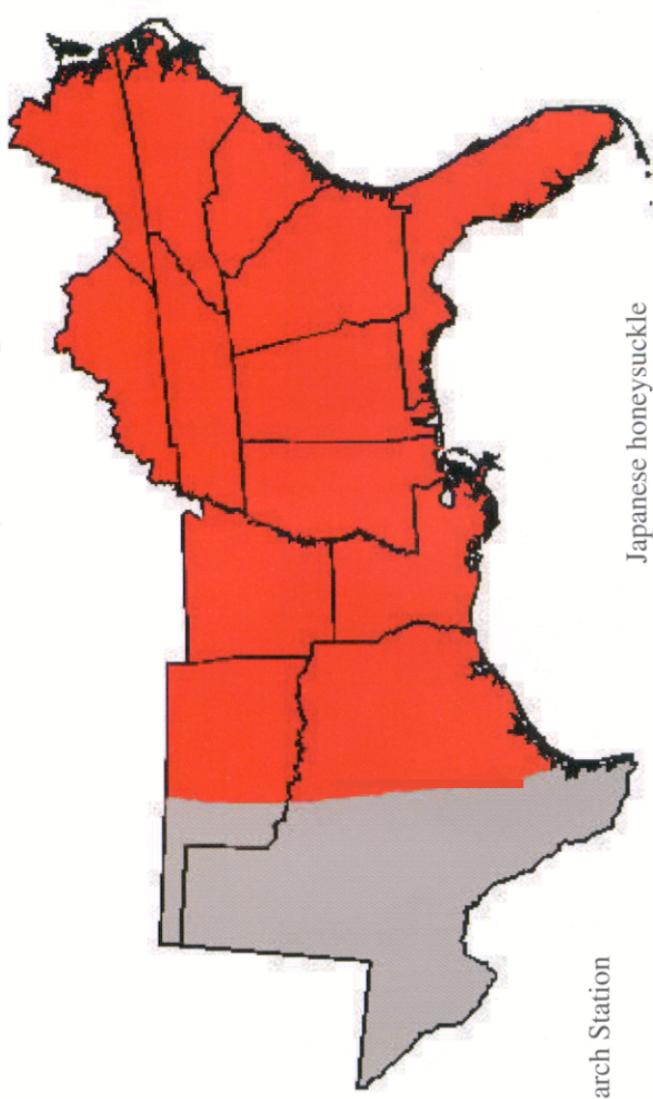
**Flowers:** April-June and August–October. **Axillary** pairs on a bracted stalk. Fragrant, white (or pink) and pale yellow, 2–3 cm (3/4–1 1/4 in) long. Thin, tubular, flaring to 5 lobes in two lips (upper lip four-lobed and lower lip single-lobed), with longest lobes nearly equaling tube. Five stamens and one pistil extending from tube.

**Fruits and seeds:** August & March. Berry black, glossy and nearly spherical, 5-6 mm (3/16–1/4 in) wide, stalks 1–3 cm (3/8–1 1/4 in) long with persistent sepals, berry contains several black seeds, oblong, 3-3.3 mm (1/8 in) long.

**Range:** Exotic, naturalized from Asia. Occurs commonly throughout the Southeast.

**Ecology:** Invasive exotic, frequently overwhelming and replacing native flora on a wide range of sites. A

common vine in pine plantations and bottomland forests in mid-region. Occurs as dense infestations along forest margins and rights-of-way. Forms ground cover or high-climbing in various stand types. Persists via rootstocks and rhizomes, and spreads by rooting at nodes and by animal-dispersed seeds.



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