



## Michigan Invasive Plant Council

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### Michigan Plant Invasiveness Assessment System (MPIAS June 2008)

#### **Lonicera maackii, Amur Honeysuckle**

**Summary and Recommendations for Michigan:** *Lonicera maackii*, Amur honeysuckle was introduced to North America 1896 and has been promoted for decades by the US Dept of Agriculture and by commercial nurseries for their wildlife, shelterbelt, and ornamental value. Many state and private nurseries still sell them, however it is generally not recommendation for use. The species is widely considered an aggressive, highly successful weedy shrub. It produces an abundant annual seed crop and has a high potential for long-term persistence in native forests. The main dispersal agents are birds, many of which are migratory and prefer the fruits. Greater native forest cover and connectivity of forests facilitates the spread of *Lonicera maackii*, whereas the abundance of agricultural land acts as a barrier to dispersal. Where this species becomes established in forest understories, it has a negative impact on tree seedlings and spring ephemerals. Forest regeneration following disturbance can be severely impeded by these species. Seed banking capability is poor for this species due to the fact that the seeds are not long-lived in the soil, however seed production and bird dispersal allows for its continued spread.

**Invasiveness in Michigan:** *Lonicera maackii*, Amur Honeysuckle's potential invasiveness is considered high due to its seed reproduction and dispersal. Its invasiveness rank is considered high in natural systems, medium in the other systems with the exception in Ag/Hort/Turf production systems. Regional importance varies between insignificant in the Upper Peninsula ecological regions to high/medium in the Southern Lower Peninsula. For more information consult the complete MPIAS assessment.

**Value in Michigan:** Recognized value is found in horticulture production, managed landscape systems, erosion control and wildlife habitat.

**Responsible Use:** *Lonicera maackii*, Amur honeysuckle has been promoted for decades by the US Dept of Agriculture and the Natural Resource Conservation Service for wildlife, shelterbelt, and ornamental use. Due to its seed production and propensity for bird dispersal it is no longer recommended for use.

**Early detection/rapid response:** Amur honeysuckle is easily identified by its arching habit, leaf characteristics, spring flowers and red fleshy fruit. Consult printed or on-line resources for pictorial descriptors of the plant.

**Long term control/management:** Since shrub honeysuckle roots are typically shallow, small- to medium-sized plants can be dug or pulled. However, all of the root crown and as much of the root system as possible should be removed to minimize sprouting and suckering. Herbicides used as foliar sprays or cut stump sprays or paints are effective in speeding up the killing process. Girdling has been effectively used in the past. Chemical applications should be performed in accordance

with the manufacturer's label. If addressed during the early states of colonization the potential for successful management is high.

**Restoration:** Restoration potential is likely to be lowest where *Lonicera* species occur in high densities and there is a high likelihood of continued dispersal of seeds into the restoration area. The potential for large-scale restoration of unmanaged natural areas or wildlands infested with *Lonicera* species is probably low. Restoration potential for managed natural areas or wildlands infested with *Lonicera* species is probably moderate.

For complete information from the Michigan Plant Invasiveness Assessment System  
Consult: <http://invasiveplantsmi.org>