WISCONSIN WILDCARDS

ALIEN INVADERS

Japanese Honeysuckle

Lonicera japonica

Basic ID

This perennial vine climbs by twisting its stems around small trees, shrubs, and structures. Leaves are oblong to oval, and persist through winter in southern states. Flowers are distinctive, tubular and fragrant, with five petals in colors of white to pink and turning yellow with age. Blooms from late April–July, producing small black fruits each containing 2–3 dark brown seeds.

Facts

Native to Japan and Korea, it invades fields, forests, wetlands, barrens, and disturbed lands. It is evergreen to semi-evergreen giving it an advantage over native species. Dense growth, vigorous roots and rhizomes blanket and displace native vegetation. Young trees and shrubs can be killed by girdling when vines twist tightly around stems and trunks.

Management

- Repeated hand pulling of seedlings and young plants with the entire root system can be effective.
- Repeated mowing in combination with herbicide or fire.
- Apply herbicide (foliar or cut-stump).

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Photo: Elizabeth J. Czarapata
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