

INVASIVE HONEYSUCKLE

During the 1960s and through the 1980s, **Amur or Asian bush honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*)** was promoted widely as a superior shrub for erosion control by federal and state agencies and extension services. It also was a popular ornamental shrub for its early white flowers and showy red berries. Tragically, it has invaded native woodlands throughout much of the Eastern United States where it out-competes native plants and negatively impacts wildlife. Amur honeysuckle has proliferated throughout the St. Louis region and may have spread onto your property or into your neighborhood. Now is the time to remove it before it spreads further.

Honeysuckle bark



Spring flowers



Late Summer/early Fall berries



October/November leaf color



Tips for Removal

Mechanical removal requires removing the root crown. Mature shrubs (stems greater than a half inch) may be pulled with a weed wrench (below, left) or other prying device or by digging out roots with a shovel or mattock. Shrubs with stems under a half inch may be hand-pulled after a soaking rainfall.

To mechanically remove acres of mature shrubs on flat ground, use a skid-steer and front-mounted root grapple (right) or bull-hog (below, right) to remove mature shrubs, roots and all. While skid-steer mounted brush mowers are useful, re-sprouting will occur.



Herbicide removal: September and October are ideal times to treat mature shrubs since they absorb herbicide readily (cut stump and foliar herbicide applications work well at this time). Please visit the native landscaping manual at shawnature.org for instruction on using herbicides safely.



Replace honeysuckle as soon as possible with native shrubs, perennials and grasses to keep new honeysuckle seedlings from coming back.

Scout treated areas annually in October and November for re-sprouting and new seedlings. Plants are spotted easily at this time because leaves are yellow. After a soaking rain, young seedlings can be easily pulled by hand.

For detailed information visit the *Native Landscaping Manual, Chapter 3: Control and ID of Invasive Species* at shawnature.org