Invasive Species Fact Sheets

Tatarian honeysuckle

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Natural Resource Stewardship and Science
Biological Resources Division

Lonicera tatarica L., Tatarian honeysuckle, Caprifoliaceae

Synonyms: *Lonicera sibirica* Georgi, *Lonicera tatarica var. latifolia* Loudon

(other synonyms at https://www.itis.gov/servlet/SingleRpt/SingleRpt?search_topic=TSN&search_value=35306#null)

Japanese stiltgrass, habit. Chris Evans, University of Illinois, Bugwood.org.

Species Description & Habitat

Species Description

Tatarian honeysuckle is a bushy shrub that grows up to 3m tall. Its leaves line the erect stems of the bush, are oval or rounded ,and grow to be 3 to 6 cm long. Inflorescence of the honeysuckle ranges from white to crimson red at 1.5 cm in length. The fruit of the Tatarian honeysuckle is not edible to humans, although the berries are consumed by birds and other animals as a seed dispersal mechanism.

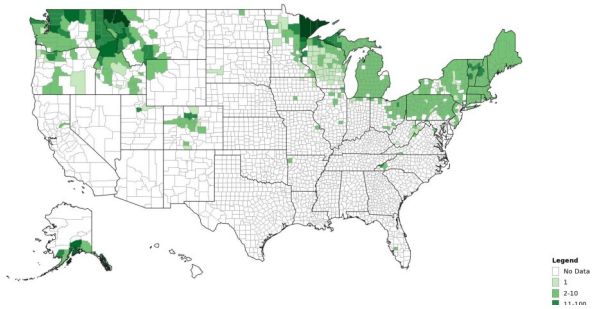
Habitat

In North America, Japanese stiltgrass occurs in a variety of disturbed sites including mesic roadsides, ditches, woodland borders, forested floodplains, and stream sides. It also occurs in mesic upland sites, forest edges, and wetlands and is usually found in moderate to dense shade.

Introduction and Impact

Tatarian honeysuckle is native to Siberia and parts of Eastern Asia. It was first introduced as an ornamental plant in the United States in 1752 in New England.

Lonicera tatarica usually propagates by escaping human development and self-sowing in more remote areas. It is susceptible to infection from the Russian aphid, a significant pest. It can reproduce from cuttings or by seeds that are transported with its fruit.



States where Tatarian honeysuckle occurs. EDDMapS. 2018. Early Detection & Distribution Mapping System. The University of Georgia - Center for Invasive Species and Ecosystem Health. Available online at http://www.eddmaps.org/; last accessed July 5, 2018.

Distribution in Introduced Range

In the United States, Tatarian honeysuckle has been reported as a widespread invasive species in the northern half of the lower 48 and Alaska.

Other countries where this species has been introduced includes parts of Asia, extending its range into Pakistan, Nepal, and Turkey as well as Mexico, Europe, Australia , New Zealand, Africa, South America, and islands of the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian oceans.

Japanese stiltgrass. Bruce Ackley, The Ohio State University, Bugwood.org.

Flower of Tatarian Honeysuckle. Leslie J. Mehrhoff, University of Connecticut, Bugwood.org.

Prevention, control, management

Manual and mechanical, environmental/cultural, and chemical methods can all be used to control Japanese stiltgrass. This species produces a soil seed bank that will require revisiting the site for seven years or more after treatment. Hand pulling can be successful if the work is thorough and timed before seed production. Cutting in late summer or treating with a range of post- and pre-emergent (to reduce seed germination) herbicides (imazameth, fluazifop-p, glyphosate, sethoxydim, diphenamid, benefin) have also been shown to be effective.

Regulatory status

This species is listed as a Class C noxious weed in Alabama, invasive and banned in Connecticut, and Prohibited in Massachusetts.

References and Resources

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