

Department of Environmental Protection
 Environmental and Geographic Information Center
 79 Elm St., Hartford, CT 06106 (860) 424-3540

Invasive Plant Information Sheet



Bush honeysuckles BelleÕs honeysuckle (*Lonicera x bella*) MorrowÕs honeysuckle (*L. morrowii*) Amur honeysuckle (*L. maackii*) Tatarian honeysuckle (*L. tatarica*) European fly-honeysuckle (*L. xylosteum*)
 Honeysuckle Family (*Caprifoliaceae*)

Ecological Impact: Bush honeysuckles are rapidly spreading shrubs that form dense stands which crowd and shade out native species. Early leaf development is particularly injurious to spring wildflowers that bloom before native trees and shrubs have leafed out. The shrubs may compete with native honeysuckles for pollinators, resulting in reduced seed development for native species. **Control Methods:** The most effective control method for bush honeysuckles is to prevent establishment by annually monitoring for and removing small plants. Underplanting disturbed woods with tolerant native woody species may prevent establishment if planting density is adequate and plants are regularly maintained. Underplants of sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) have met with some success. Repeated cutting or burning over several consecutive years will reduce plant vigor in dense stands and help prevent spread. Herbicide use in combination with cutting is also effective.

Mechanical Control: Seedlings and scattered small- to medium-sized plants can be hand pulled or dug with a shovel or grubbing hoe. Since roots are fairly shallow, plants are relatively easy to remove, especially in the spring when the soil is moist. Large plants can be similarly removed if the soil around the roots is first loosened. A weed wrench or mattock can also be used. Be sure to remove the entire plant, including all roots, since new plants can sprout from root fragments. Uprooting plants will disturb the soil and encourage seedling establishment. Soil should be tamped down after plant removal and the area monitored annually. In sensitive natural areas, physical removal is best avoided. Dense stands can be repeatedly cut to ground level or burned. Since repeated cuttings reduce plant strength, cuts should continue for at least three to five years. Two cuts a year is recommended, one in the spring, the second in late summer or early fall. Plants cut in the winter or cut once and left to regrow will sprout vigorously to form dense stands. In shaded

forest areas, where bush honeysuckles are less resilient, repeated cuttings may cause high mortality. In fire-adapted plant communities, prescribed burns in the spring will top-kill shrubs. To control root sprouts, burns should be repeated annually or biennially for several years.

Chemical Control: Herbicides can be applied broad scale as a foliar spray, or to select individuals as cut stump treatments.

1) Foliar Spray: This method is most effective throughout the growing season, but is best done in early spring or fall when many native species are dormant. Apply a 1% solution of systemic herbicide like glyphosate . (e.g., Roundup™ or Rodeo™) and water with a backpack sprayer. If plants are in or near wetlands, only Rodeo™ should be used. Glyphosate is a non-selective herbicide that will kill all vegetation. Managers should be cautious not to spray so heavily that herbicide drips off the leaves.

2) Cut Stump Treatment: This method is most effective during late summer or fall, when plants are translocating nutrients to the roots. Cut stems to ground level and treat with a 2-3% solution of glyphosate (Roundup™ or Rodeo™) and water. If plants are in or near wetlands, only Rodeo™ should be used. Oil-soluble triclopyr (Garlon 4™) is also effective, but the water-soluble formula will give poor results. Apply the herbicide with a sponge or paint brush or spray with a spray bottle or low pressure hand-held sprayer. To ensure uptake before the plant seals off the cut, apply herbicide immediately after cutting, within 5-15 minutes. Stump sprouts should be cut and the stumps treated, or, if left uncut, treated with a foliar spray.

Biological Control: Currently, there are no biological control methods.

October 1999