



Cooperative Extension Service  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

## *Lonicera sempervirens*<sup>1</sup>

Edward F. Gilman<sup>2</sup>

### Introduction

Although a vigorous twining vine, the native Trumpet Honeysuckle does not spread out of control quite as easily as Japanese Honeysuckle (Fig. 1). The delicate but striking, two-inch-long, tapered trumpet-shaped crimson blooms appear from April through summer and are set against a background of dark green, smooth leaves. The flowers are particularly attractive to hummingbirds but are not fragrant. Evergreen in the lower South, Trumpet Honeysuckle may die back during a hard freeze. Quickly covering fences, lampposts, or mailboxes, Trumpet Honeysuckle is an excellent vine to use for naturalizing. Train it onto an arbor or trellis in the full sun for good, thick coverage.

### General Information

**Scientific name:** *Lonicera sempervirens*

**Pronunciation:** lah-NISS-ser-ruh sem-per-VYE-renz

**Common name(s):** Coral Honeysuckle, Trumpet Honeysuckle

**Family:** *Caprifoliaceae*

**Plant type:** vine

**USDA hardiness zones:** 4 through 10A (Fig. 2)

**Planting month for zone 7:** year round

**Planting month for zone 8:** year round

**Planting month for zone 9:** year round

**Planting month for zone 10:** year round

**Origin:** native to Florida

**Uses:** hanging basket; attracts hummingbirds

**Availability:** generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

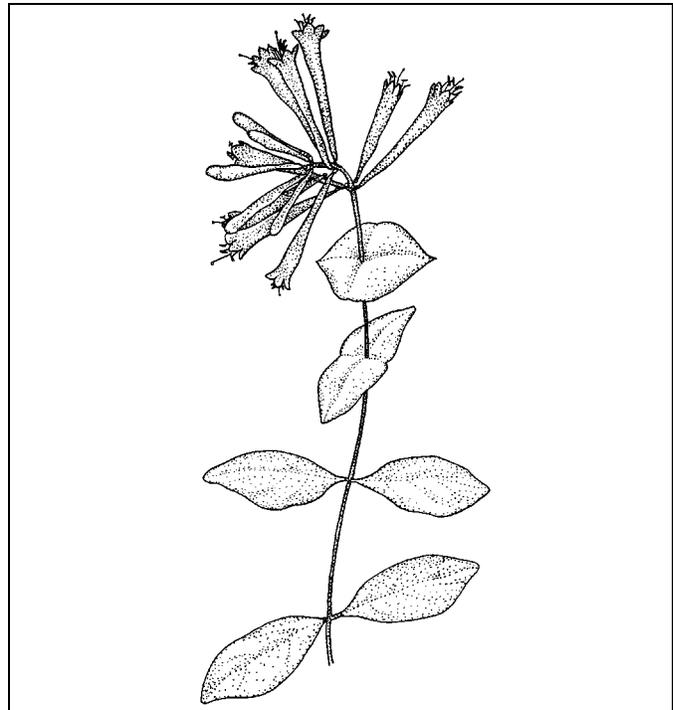


Figure 1. Coral Honeysuckle.

### Description

**Height:** depends upon supporting structure

**Spread:** depends upon supporting structure

**Plant habit:** spreading

**Plant density:** moderate

**Growth rate:** fast

**Texture:** medium

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2. Edward F. Gilman, professor, Environmental Horticulture Department, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, 32611.

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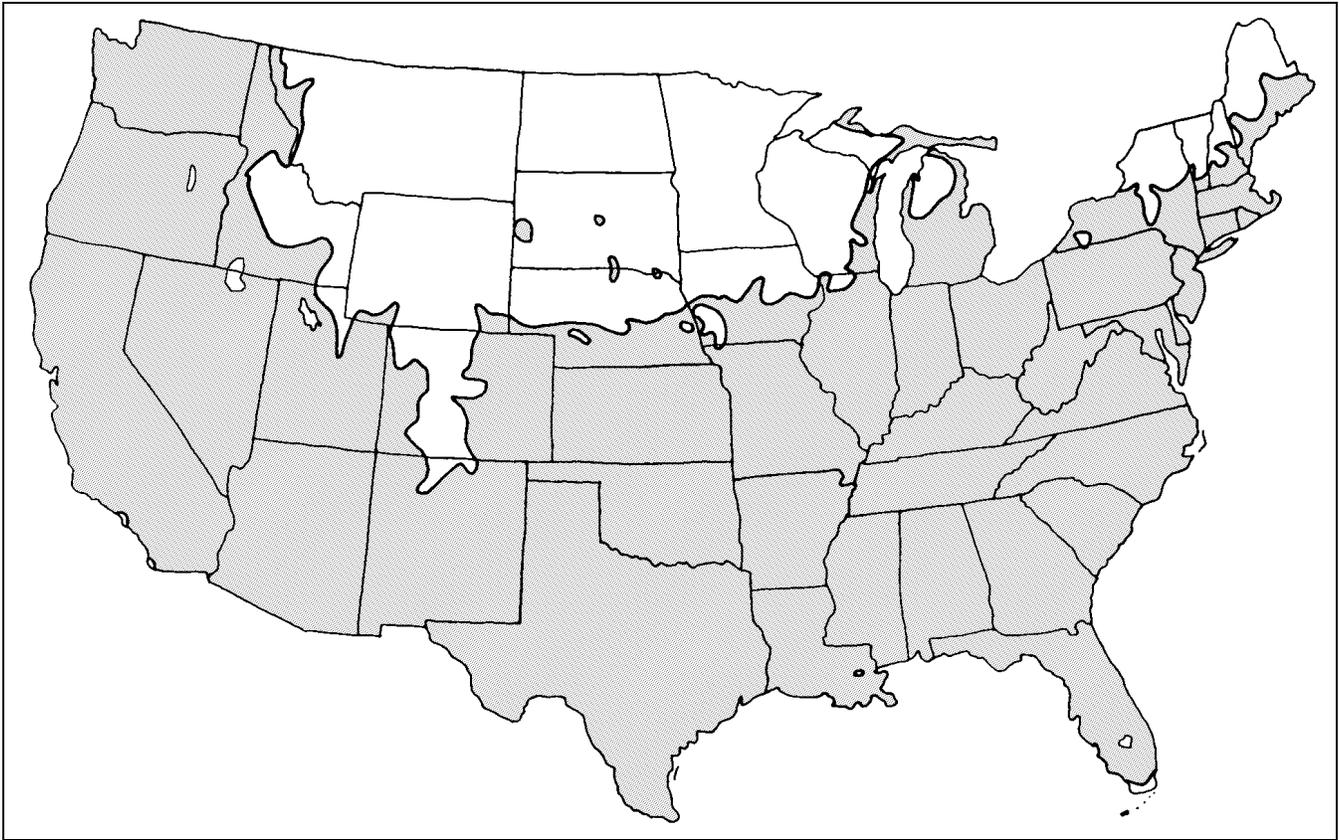


Figure 2. Shaded area represents potential planting range.

**Foliage**

- Leaf arrangement:** opposite/subopposite
- Leaf type:** simple
- Leaf margin:** entire
- Leaf shape:** ovate
- Leaf venation:** pinnate
- Leaf type and persistence:** semi-evergreen
- Leaf blade length:** less than 2 inches
- Leaf color:** green
- Fall color:** no fall color change
- Fall characteristic:** not showy

**Flower**

- Flower color:** red
- Flower characteristic:** spring flowering; summer flowering

**Fruit**

- Fruit shape:** round
- Fruit length:** less than .5 inch
- Fruit cover:** unknown
- Fruit color:** unknown

**Fruit characteristic:** inconspicuous and not showy

**Trunk and Branches**

- Trunk/bark/branches:** typically multi-trunked or clumping stems
- Current year stem/twig color:** reddish
- Current year stem/twig thickness:** thin

**Culture**

- Light requirement:** plant grows in part shade/part sun
- Soil tolerances:** slightly alkaline; clay; sand; acidic; loam
- Drought tolerance:** moderate
- Soil salt tolerances:** unknown
- Plant spacing:** 36 to 60 inches

## Other

**Roots:** not applicable

**Winter interest:** no special winter interest

**Outstanding plant:** plant has outstanding ornamental features and could be planted more

**Invasive potential:** aggressive, spreading plant

**Pest resistance:** no serious pests are normally seen on the plant

Bacterial crown gall causes round, warty-looking growths on the stems near the soil line. Dig out and destroy infected plants.

## Use and Management

Trumpet Honeysuckle tolerates most soils except dry sands. As with many vines, some training may be needed to direct growth. Vines will accumulate foliage on top of a fence or other structure but yearly heading back can encourage growth close to the ground. It is best suited for sunny locations and flowers poorly in the shade.

Propagation is by softwood cuttings which root easily or layering stem sections where they touch the ground.

Several cultivars are available: 'Sulphurea' has bright yellow flowers; 'Superba' has bright scarlet flowers and broadly oval leaves; and 'Magnifica' has large, bright red blooms and is late-flowering.

No pests are of major concern.

Aphids suck plant juices and coat the leaves with sticky honeydew. The insects can be dislodged with high pressure water sprays from the garden hose.

Leaf rollers roll leaves together, then web them in place. Hand pick infested leaves.

Four-lined plant bug causes sunken, round, brown spots on the leaves. The injury is sometimes mistaken for a disease. Adult insects are yellowish green with black stripes.

Scale insects infest the stems and branches. Close inspection may reveal these insects crusted on the bark. Spray with horticultural oil in the spring.

### Pests and Diseases

No diseases are of major concern.

Many fungi cause leaf spots, but chemical control is rarely warranted.

Various genera of powdery mildews form white powder on the leaves.