**Lonicera japonica**

Edward F. Gilman

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**Introduction**

Japanese Honeysuckle is a rampant vine that can easily grow out-of-control in the landscape (Fig. 1). It is considered a weed, a pest and an invasive plant in Florida. It has escaped cultivation and is reproducing in the wild. The fragrant flowers emerge white and turn yellow within a day or two. The plant remains in bloom for several weeks in the spring. Plants grow very fast, overtopping adjacent shrubs and growing into nearby trees. It should only be planted in a confined space such as in a container or planter.

**General Information**

- **Scientific name:** Lonicera japonica
- **Pronunciation:** lah-NISS-ser-ruh juh-PAWN-nick-kuh
- **Common name(s):** Japanese 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:** not native to North America
- **Uses:** container or above-ground planter; naturalizing
- **Availability:** generally available in many areas within its hardiness range

**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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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: white; yellow
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:** potentially invasive

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

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**Use and Management**

Honeysuckle enjoys the full sun, but grows and flowers well in partial shade. Plants will also grow in the shade, but they flower poorly. Any soil, wet or dry, appears to be suited for this irrepressible vining shrub.

**Pests and Diseases**

No pests cause serious harm to Honeysuckle. It simply outgrows most problems.

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**Figure 3.** Flower of Japanese Honeysuckle

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