



Cooperative Extension Service  
Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

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

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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



Figure 1. Japanese Honeysuckle.

**Spread:** depends upon supporting structure

**Plant habit:** spreading

**Plant density:** moderate

**Growth rate:** fast

**Texture:** medium

### Description

**Height:** depends upon supporting structure

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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

## 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.



**Figure 3.** Flower of Japanese Honeysuckle