

## *Lonicera tatarica*, Tatarian Honeysuckle

This honeysuckle is native to central Asia and southern Russia. It has spread throughout many natural areas in the US and is one of the most common woody plants in the capital region. This plant commonly inhabits woodlands, roadsides, hedgerows, and thickets. Honeysuckle shades out native vegetation due to its habit of leafing out very early in the spring.



**Description:** This shrub can grow 5-12 feet tall. The branches are long, arching out and dividing into smaller leafy branches. The older bark is a gray-grayish brown with longitudinal ridges. As the branches age, they may become shaggy in appearance from shedding of the bark, which can be used to differentiate this plant from native honeysuckles. The leaves are opposite with an oval shape, tapering to a point at the tip.



**Control:** Mechanically removing the whole shrub can effectively control honeysuckle when it is smaller. As with most invasive shrubs, it is best to do this before or while the plant is in flower. Larger honeysuckle can be treated by the cut stump method of herbicide application.

**Look-alikes:** Tatarian Honeysuckle can be identified from other honeysuckles by the color of its flowers and by the lack of hairs on the leaves.

**Flower Time and Description:** The blooming period for this honeysuckle is from late spring to early summer, lasting about 3 weeks. The flowers are white to rosy-pink, having 5 lobes that are long and narrow. Afterwards, red berries replace the flowers.

