

## *Lonicera x bella*, Showy Pink Honeysuckle

This species is a hybrid between the *Lonicera morrowii* and *Lonicera tatarica*, which are native to Europe and Asia. The plant can occupy a variety of habitats including open forests, fields, or roadsides.

**Description:** This multi-stemmed shrub can grow 3-12 feet tall. Older shrubs will have rough brownish-gray bark at the base, often peeling into narrow strips. There are opposite oval shaped leaves along the twigs and branches. The underside of the leaves may be slightly pubescent.

**Control:** Small plants can be removed physically by pulling or digging. The roots for this plant most often reach out horizontally which makes it feasible for manual removal. Repeated burning may be effective, or herbicides can be used. After cutting down to the base, glyphosate can be applied to the cut stump. All efforts to locally eradicate the species would need to be continued for at least three years to ensure the plant doesn't re-sprout.

**Look-alikes:** Identification of this species is difficult due to the similarities between the other honeysuckle species. The *Lonicera x bella* tends to be a little taller than the other species, reaching up to 20 feet tall. The flowers on *x bella* are most often pink as well.

**Flower Time and Description:** Flowering happens from May to June. Flowers form in the axis of the leaves, usually appearing pink – turning yellow with age. The fruits are red berries which appear in pairs.

