

Lonicera japonica  [简体中文](#) [正體中文](#)

System: Terrestrial

Kingdom	Phylum	Class	Order	Family
Plantae	Magnoliophyta	Magnoliopsida	Dipsacales	Caprifoliaceae

Common name *madreselva* (English, Dominican Republic), *Japanisches Geissblatt* (German), *Japanese honeysuckle* (English), *Chinese honeysuckle* (English), *Hall's honeysuckle* (English), *madressilva* (Portuguese, Brazil)

Synonym *Lonicera japonica*, var. *chinensis* (P.W. Wats.) Baker
Nintooa japonica, (Thunb.) Sweet
Lonicera japonica, var. *chinensis*
Nintooa japonica
Lonicera flexuosa, Thun.
Caprifolium hallianum, Hort.
Lonicera brachypoda, DC.

Similar species

Summary *Lonicera japonica* is an extremely vigorous vine which grows up through the canopy, smothering and ultimately killing the host tree. It competes with native plants for light and nutrients and prevents the understorey and small trees from developing, causing a reduction in forest diversity. *Lonicera japonica* is shade and drought tolerant, though it needs full to partial sunlight to grow successfully. It spreads rapidly via above-ground runners that root at nodes and its seeds may be eaten by birds and then dispersed. It is planted in gardens and along roadsides for landscaping purposes and can also be spread by the dumping of garden waste.



[view this species on IUCN Red List](#)

Species Description

Lonicera japonica is an evergreen in its southern range and semi-evergreen in its northern range. Stems are hollow with peeling reddish-brown bark and usually 2 to 3m long when developed. Leaves are 4 to 8cm long and ovate in shape. *L. japonica* produces white to yellowish tubular flowers that are 2.5 to 5cm long and black berries that contain 2 to 12 seeds. The seeds are 2 to 3mm long, ovate in shape, and dark brown to black in colour. Flowers are produced during summer and "fruit mature and are dispersed during autumn in eastern United States\" (Hidayati *et al.* 2000). The blooming period extends from April to December in Georgia (Andrews 1919), late May to October in Kentucky (Nuzzo 1997), May to June in Illinois (Mohlenbrock 1986), and June in Michigan (Nuzzo 1997).

Lifecycle Stages

Lonicera japonica has an extended growing season, owing to its evergreen nature.

Uses

L. japonica is beneficial as winter forage for white tail deer and is used for this purpose by wildlife managers. Birds and cotton-tailed rabbits also eat the seeds and leaves of the vine. It provides a habitat cover of twisted vines for birds and small mammals. Landscapers use it because of its fragrant smell. It is considered a valuable medical herb in China, where it is used to treat chicken pox and to maintain human vascular homeostasis.



Habitat Description

Lonicera japonica is found in a variety of habitats, including fields, forest edges and openings, disturbed woods, and floodplains. It is shade and drought tolerant, though it needs full to partial sunlight to grow successfully. *L. japonica* is still planted in gardens and along roadsides for landscaping purposes.

Reproduction

Lonicera japonica reproduces vegetatively and by seed. Seeds are spread mostly by birds, which ingest the berries and excrete the seeds. *L. japonica* plants spread by way of aboveground runners that root at the nodes. The plants are pollinated by a variety of insects, such as bumblebees, butterflies, and especially hawkmoths, but in some areas may produce few fruits and seeds (Larson *et al.* 2002). Seeds require cold stratification to overcome dormancy (Hidayati *et al.* 2000). *L. japonica* produces 2 to 12 seeds per berry.

General Impacts

L. japonica competes with natives for light and nutrients. It outcompetes natives by spreading rapidly and completely covering and toppling small trees and shrubs in the process. This prevents the understory and small trees from developing, causing a reduction in forest understory diversity. The newly opened understory causes *L. japonica* to spread rapidly and provide habitat to other invasives, such as *Hedera helix* (English ivy) and *Pueraria montana* (kudzu).

Management Info

Preventative measures: A [Risk Assessment of *Lonicera japonica*](#) for Hawai'i and other Pacific islands was prepared by Dr. Curtis Daehler (UH Botany) with funding from the Kaulunani Urban Forestry Program and US Forest Service. The alien plant screening system is derived from Pheloung *et al.* (1999) with minor modifications for use in Pacific islands (Daehler *et al.* 2004). The result is a score of 12 and a recommendation of: "Likely to cause significant ecological or economic harm in Hawai'i and on other Pacific Islands as determined by a high WRA score, which is based on published sources describing species biology and behaviour in Hawai'i and/or other parts of the world."

Physical: Mowing and grazing control the spread of *L. japonica*, however, this does not eradicate it. Prescribed burns remove aboveground vegetation and reduce new growth but do not destroy roots, which will continue to produce sprouts.

Chemical: Chemical control is effective if used in the correct concentration and applied at the appropriate time of year. An effective treatment appears to be a foliar spray of 1.5% glyphosate applied shortly after the first frost.

Integrated management: The most effective eradication technique seems to be a combination of both herbicide application and burning. The evergreen nature of the plant throughout its range allows it to photosynthesize longer, providing it with a competitive advantage over other plants that go dormant earlier. But fortunately, this also allows for easier identification, assessment and treatment among dormant native plants.

Pathway

It's planted along roadsides and in gardens for landscaping purposes.

Principal source: Nuzzo, V. 1997. *The Nature Conservancy Element Stewardship Abstract For *Lonicera japonica** The Nature Conservancy. Available from: <http://tncweeds.ucdavis.edu/esadocs/documnts/lonijap.rtf> [Accessed 27 January 2003]

Compiler: National Biological Information Infrastructure (NBII) & IUCN/SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG)

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Publication date: 2005-11-16

ALIEN RANGE

[1] ARGENTINA
[1] BERMUDA
[1] DOMINICAN REPUBLIC
[1] HONG KONG
[1] PORTUGAL
[1] REUNION
[39] UNITED STATES

[1] AUSTRALIA
[2] BRAZIL
[1] FRANCE
[5] NEW ZEALAND
[1] PUERTO RICO
[2] UNITED KINGDOM

Red List assessed species 6: CR = 1; VU = 1; LR/nt = 1; LR/lc = 3;

[Sarracenia alata](#) LR/nt
[Sarracenia leucophylla](#) VU
[Sarracenia oreophila](#) CR

[Sarracenia flava](#) LR/lc
[Sarracenia minor](#) LR/lc
[Sarracenia psittacina](#) LR/lc

BIBLIOGRAPHY

16 references found for *Lonicera japonica*

Management information

Daehler, C.C.; Denslow, J.S.; Ansari, S and Huang-Chi, K., 2004. A Risk-Assessment System for Screening Out Invasive Pest Plants from Hawaii and Other Pacific Islands. Conservation Biology Volume 18 Issue 2 Page 360.

Summary: A study on the use of a screening system to assess proposed plant introductions to Hawaii or other Pacific Islands and to identify high-risk species used in horticulture and forestry which would greatly reduce future pest-plant problems and allow entry of most nonpests.

[IUCN 2010. IUCN Red List of Threatened Species. Version 2010.4.](#)

Summary: The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species provides taxonomic, conservation status and distribution information on taxa that have been globally evaluated using the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria. This system is designed to determine the relative risk of extinction, and the main purpose of the IUCN Red List is to catalogue and highlight those taxa that are facing a higher risk of global extinction (i.e. those listed as Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable). The IUCN Red List also includes information on taxa that are categorized as Extinct or Extinct in the Wild; on taxa that cannot be evaluated because of insufficient information (i.e. are Data Deficient); and on taxa that are either close to meeting the threatened thresholds or that would be threatened were it not for an ongoing taxon-specific conservation programme (i.e. are Near Threatened).

Available from: <http://www.iucnredlist.org/> [Accessed 25 May 2011]

[National Pest Plant Accord, 2001. Biosecurity New Zealand.](#)

Summary: The National Pest Plant Accord is a cooperative agreement between regional councils and government departments with biosecurity responsibilities. Under the accord, regional councils will undertake surveillance to prevent the commercial sale and/or distribution of an agreed list of pest plants.

Available from: <http://www.biosecurity.govt.nz/pests-diseases/plants/accord.htm> [Accessed 11 August 2005]

New Zealand Plant Conservation Network, 2005. Unwanted Organisms. Factsheet *Lonicera japonica*

Pallin, N. 2000. Ku-ring-gai Flying-fox Reserve, Habitat restoration project, 15 years on. Ecological Management and Restoration 1(1):10 April 2000.

Summary: Discusses impacts species has had on a Reserve in Australia. Examines chemical and physical control methods and how control has been reached.

[Royal New Zealand Institute of Horticulture \(RNZIH\), 2005. Japanese honeysuckle *Lonicera japonica*](#)

Summary: Available from: http://www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/nppa_050.pdf [Accessed 1 October 2005]

Tasman District Council (TDC) 2001. Tasman-Nelson Regional Pest Management Strategy

[Varnham, K. 2006. Non-native species in UK Overseas Territories: a review. JNCC Report 372. Peterborough: United Kingdom.](#)

Summary: This database compiles information on alien species from British Overseas Territories.

Available from: <http://www.jncc.gov.uk/page-3660> [Accessed 10 November 2009]

Ward, B. and Henzell, R. 1999. Gel pruning for the control of invasive vines. ConScience, Department of Conservation, New Zealand.

Summary: Gel pruning is being investigated as an environmentally friendly and effective chemical application system for selectively killing invasive vines.

[Wotherspoon and Wotherspoon, 2002. The evolution and execution of a plan for invasive weed eradication and control. Rangitoto Island, Hauraki Gulf, New Zealand. In *Turning the tide: the eradication of invasive species*: 381-388. Veitch, C.R. and Clout, M.N.\(eds\). IUCN SSC Invasive Species Specialist Group. IUCN. Gland, Switzerland and Cambridge, UK.](#)

Summary: Eradication case study in Turning the tide: the eradication of invasive species.

General information

Baret, S., Rouget, M., Richardson, D. M., Lavergne, C., Egoh, B., Dupont, J., & Strasberg, D. 2006. Current distribution and potential extent of the most invasive alien plant species on La Réunion (Indian Ocean, Mascarene islands). Austral Ecology, 31, 747-758.

Summary: L'objectif de ce papier est d'identifier les zones prioritaires en matière de gestion des invasions biologiques sur La Réunion en modélisant la distribution actuelle et potentielle d'une sélection de plantes parmi les plus envahissantes.



GLOBAL INVASIVE SPECIES DATABASE

FULL ACCOUNT FOR: *Lonicera japonica*

[Conservatoire Botanique National De Mascarin \(BOULLET V. coord.\) 2007. - *Lonicera japonica* Index de la flore vasculaire de la Réunion \(Trachéophytes\) : statuts, menaces et protections. - Version 2007.1 \(mise à jour 12 juin 2007\).](#)

Summary: Base de données sur la flore de la Réunion. De nombreuses informations très utiles.

Available from: <http://flore.cbnm.org/index2.php?page=taxon&num=b052e2e0c0ad1b2d5036bd56e27d061c> [Accessed 1 April 2008]

[ITIS \(Integrated Taxonomic Information System\), 2005. Online Database *Lonicera japonica*](#)

Summary: An online database that provides taxonomic information, common names, synonyms and geographical jurisdiction of a species. In addition links are provided to retrieve biological records and collection information from the Global Biodiversity Information Facility (GBIF) Data Portal and bioscience articles from BioOne journals.

Available from:

http://www.cbif.gc.ca/pls/itisca/taxastep?king=every&p_action=containing&taxa=Lonicera+japonica&p_format=&p_ifx=plgt&p_lang=
[Accessed March 2005]

[Langeland, K.A. and Burks, K. C \(Eds\) 1998. Identification and Biology of Non-Native Plants in Florida's Natural Areas, University of Florida. *Lonicera japonica*](#)

Summary: Information on plants that pose threats to natural resource areas in Florida.

Available from: http://www.fleppc.org/ID_book/Lonicera%20japonica.pdf [Accessed 30 December 2004]

MacDonald, I. A. W., Thebaud, C., Strahm, W. A., Strasberg, D. 1991. Effects of alien plant invasions on native vegetation remnants on La Réunion (Mascarenes Islands, Indian Ocean). *Environmental Conservation* 18 (1):51-61.

Summary: Cet article est le premier à proposer une hiérarchisation des plantes les plus envahissantes de La Réunion. 33 plantes ont été ainsi classées en utilisant une méthode développée en Afrique du Sud. Les bases d'une stratégie de lutte contre les plantes exotiques envahissantes sont également formulées.

[Roy, B; Popay, I; Champion, P; James, T & Rahman, A., 2004. An Illustrated Guide to Common Weeds of New Zealand 2nd Edition. *Lonicera japonica* honeysuckle. New Zealand Plant Protection Society](#)

Summary: Available from: <http://www.rnzih.org.nz/pages/lonicerajaponica.htm> [Accessed May 10 2005]