

Winter Identification of Bush Honeysuckle

INVASIVE SPECIES SERIES | FEBRUARY 2021



Illinois Extension
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

EXOTIC BUSH HONEYSUCKLES

Exotic bush honeysuckle species (*Lonicera maackii*, *L. tatarica*, *L. morrowii*, *L. xbella*) are significant invaders in Illinois' forested ecosystems. Controlling bush honeysuckle can be very effective in winter. While some leaves and berries may persist into winter, other characteristics are often needed for correct identification.

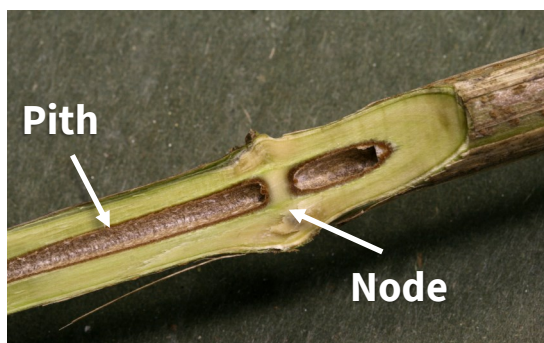
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BARK AND STEMS

The pith is hollow, except at the nodes. Buds and branches are opposite. Buds are tan, pointed and slightly hairy. Buds arise from the twigs at a broad angle. Bark is light tan, and stringy, often peeling or flaking slightly.



FORM

Bush honeysuckle is a medium-sized, arching shrub. The branch ends curve back down to the ground. The main trunk is short and curved. Branching often occurs very close to the ground.

