

**Italian honeysuckle (*Lonicera caprifolium*)**

**Also called:** Italian woodbine, perfoliate honeysuckle

**Family name:** Honeysuckle (Caprifoliaceae)

**Native range:** Europe

**NJ Status:** Emerging Stage 0- Absent or very rare. It is *moderately* threatening to natural plant communities. All detected occurrences should be eradicated.

**General description:**

- Deciduous to semi-evergreen vine
- Growing to 20'
- Aggressive

**Leaves:**

- Opposite leaves, toothless
- Oval shape
- Dark green above, grayish beneath
- Leaves directly below flowers are perfoliate (leaf bases are fused)

**Perfoliate leaves** are fused at the base and surround the stem. They grow below the flower



**Flowers:**

- Abundant, yellow-white tubular flowers—may have a red tinge but mature to yellow, 2" long
- Fragrant, especially at night
- Surrounded by perfoliate leaves
- Blooms from August-September (or later depending on frost)



**Fruit:**

- Red to orange berries
- Grow at the tip of branch
- Ripen October-November



**Habitat:**

- Forest, edge, meadow, garden
- Part shade to sun
- Extremely adaptable

**Commercial Availability:** Yes

**Look-alikes:**

**Trumpet honeysuckle**

(*L. sempervirens*)

- Native vine
- Smooth stems
- Leaves below flower are perfoliate (fused)
- Flower is deep red on the outside and yellow on the inside
- May hold leaves through winter



Trumpet honeysuckle

**Japanese honeysuckle (*L. japonicum*)**

- Widespread invasive vine
- Lacking perfoliate leaves
- White tubular flowers
- Black berries which grow along the stem

Japanese honeysuckle



**Limber honeysuckle**

(*Lonicera dioica*)

- Native low climbing vine or small shrub, branches arch 3'-10' from plant
- **Rare plant-** requires wet soil (ex. bogs)
- Red, yellow, or purple flowers over perfoliate leaves- blooms May-June, 0.75"
- Red berries
- Flowers & fruits in clumps at the tip of the vine



Limber honeysuckle

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