

Fragrant honeysuckle (*Lonicera fragrantissima*)

Also called: Winter honeysuckle, breath of spring, winter jasmine

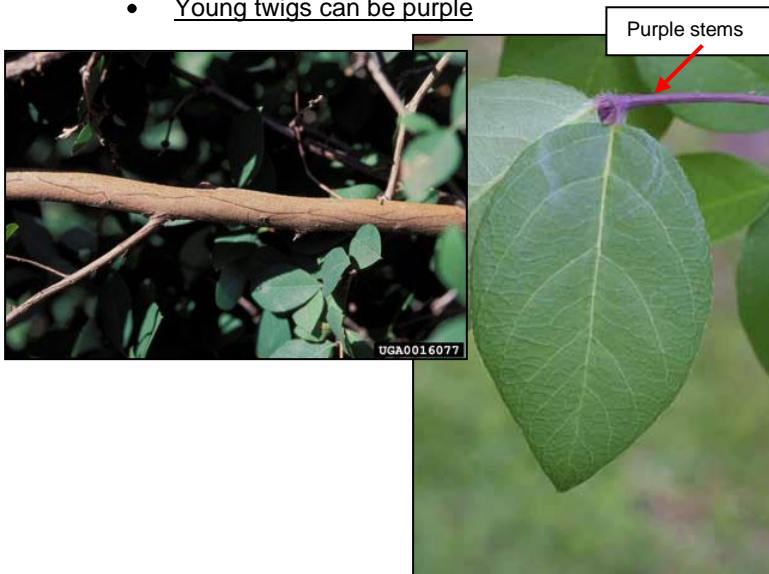
Family name: Honeysuckle (Caprifoliaceae)

Native range: China

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

General:

- Wide-spreading, multi-stemmed deciduous shrub
- Stems are hollow with tan bark
- Grows 6'-8' tall and wide
- Young twigs can be purple



Leaves:

- Opposite, simple, toothless and oval-shaped
- Bluish-green in color
- Persist into winter
- 1"-3" long



L. fragrantissima's leaves are slightly rounder and more bluish than other bush honeysuckles.

Flowers:

- White, tubular, & fragrant (Fruit Loop smell)
- 0.5" long, arranged in pairs
- Extremely abundant
- Blooms January-February



Fruit:

- Green in April, ripen to red in the summer (May-June)
- May be hidden by the leaves
- Often occur in conjoined pairs



Habitat:

- Open forests, edges, fields, roadsides, and other open upland
- Very cold hardy
- Tolerates wet, dry, sun, shade, low or high pH

Commercial Availability: Yes

Look-alikes:

Shrub honeysuckles (*Lonicera* sp.)

- There are no native shrub honeysuckles in NJ- many species are invasive
- All have opposite, bluish green leaves lacking hair or thorns
- All produce a tubular flower- most are white in color but vary in shade from white to red

Vining honeysuckles (*Lonicera* sp.)

- Native & invasive twining vines
- Similar flower & leaf structure
- Native honeysuckle has a solid stem

Coralberry (*Symphoricarpos orbiculatus*)

- Native shrub- similar leaves to shrub honeysuckles
- 2'-4' tall- wide spreading
- Upper branches may be reddish & hairy
- Pale pink or white flowers- shorter tube than honeysuckles
- Red/ pink berries, abundant clusters

