

Amur Honeysuckle



Amur Honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii*)

General Description

A large, upright, spreading, leggy, deciduous shrub introduced from Manchuria and Korea. Red fruits are displayed in layers. Foliage quality, however, tends to deteriorate as the growing season progresses.

Leaves and Buds

Bud Arrangement - Opposite.

Bud Color - Gray, pubescent.

Bud Size - Small.

Leaf Type and Shape - Simple, ovate-elliptic.

Leaf Margins - Smooth.

Leaf Surface - Usually pubescent only on the veins on both sides.

Leaf Length - 2 to 3 inches.

Leaf Width - 1 to 1½ inches.

Leaf Color - Deep green, quality decreases in late summer.

Flowers and Fruits

Flower Type - Borne in peduncled pairs from the leaf axils of short lateral branchlets.

Flower Color - White, changing to yellowish.

Fruit Type - Berry.

Fruit Color - Red, 1/4 inch in diameter.

Form

Growth Habit - Spreading.

Texture - Medium, summer; medium-coarse, winter.

Crown Height - 10 to 14 feet.

Crown Width - 10 to 14 feet.

Bark Color - Grayish-brown, pith is brown, excavated in internodes, solid at nodes.

Root System - Fibrous, spreading.

Environmental Requirements

Soils

Soil Texture - Adapted to a variety of soils.

Soil pH - 5.5 to 8.0.

Windbreak Suitability Group - 1, 1K, 3, 4, 4C, 5, 8.

Cold Hardiness

USDA Zone 2.

Water

Moderate drought tolerance.

Light

Full sun to partial shade.

Uses

Conservation/Windbreaks

Medium shrub for farmstead windbreaks.

Wildlife

Berries are eaten by birds. Nesting cover for songbirds.

Agroforestry Products

Food - Fruit may have some value.

Medicinal - Used as laxative, a diuretic and for headaches.

Urban/Recreational

Usable for border and screen plantings. Foliage not particularly attractive.

Cultivated Varieties

Cling Red Honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii* var. *podocarpa* 'Cling Red') - Released by USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Center, Elsberry, Missouri. Insufficient winter hardiness in USDA hardiness zones 3 and 4. A cultivar seed strain.

Rem Red Honeysuckle (*L. maackii* var. *podocarpa* 'Rem Red') - Released by USDA-NRCS Plant Materials Center, Cape May, New Jersey. Insufficient winter hardiness in USDA hardiness zones 3 and 4. A cultivar seed strain.

Related Species

Blueleaf Honeysuckle (*Lonicera korolkowii*)

Tatarian Honeysuckle (*L. tatarica*)

Pests

No major pest problems. Russian aphid resistant. Decline in foliage quality is not uncommon in this genus, and not well understood.