

Japanese honeysuckle (*Lonicera japonica*)



Tube-like white to yellow flowers

Japanese honeysuckle is a vigorous, climbing shrub with attractive, fragrant, white flowers. Japanese honeysuckle forms dense masses of vegetation that smother and crowd out other vegetation. It is commonly found in coastal areas, forest margins and disturbed forests, roadsides and rough pastures. It is frost, wind and drought tolerant, but does not tolerate dense shading.

Capable of growing up to 15m per year, the plant is evergreen with leaves in opposite pairs. From September to May tube-like white to yellow flowers appear in pairs, and are followed by glossy black berries.

Birds disperse the seeds, but discarded fragments of this plant are the main source of new infestations.

Small plants should be dug out and the plant material disposed of carefully. Larger plants or infestations can be sprayed with herbicide. Alternatively the plants can be cut back to the main stem and the stump treated with herbicide. Broken stems bearing nodes will re-sprout so take care to compost or bury all cut plant material.

Contact your Regional Council for advice on control methods.