

# Lonicera japonica

## Japanese honeysuckle

*Lonicera japonica* Thunb.

Family: Caprifoliaceae

**Description:** A popular ornamental. Sprawling and climbing perennial, smothers shrubs. Young stems hairy. Leaves opposite, ovate, lower leaves sometimes lobed, 3 inches long by 1.5 inches wide. Flowers in pairs at the axils, white, maturing to yellow. Fruits rarely except in Mānoa Valley; fruit roundish, blue-black. Genus named in honor of 16<sup>th</sup> century German botanist Adam Lonitzer<sup>(70)</sup>; *japonica*, of Japan<sup>(19)</sup>.

**Distribution:** Native to Asia. A serious weed on two million acres of U.S. mainland forests<sup>(38)</sup>. First collected on Hawai‘i in 1951<sup>(70)</sup>. Occurs in mesic to wet areas such as Kōke‘e on Kaua‘i and Volcano on Hawai‘i, from sea level to at least 4000 ft.

**Environmental impact:** Smothers plants in mesic to wet forests.



**Management:** Sensitive to hormone-type herbicides and to metsulfuron and glyphosate<sup>(38)</sup>.