

Japanese Honeysuckle

Lonicera japonica

Description -

- Semi-evergreen perennial trailing or twining woody vine with simple, opposite, oval leaves around 1.5 inches long with smooth edges.
- Extremely fragrant, two-lipped flowers, 1 to 2 inches long in pairs throughout summer, mostly white to yellow.
- Small black berries in early autumn.
- Spreads by seeds, underground rhizomes, and above ground runners.
- New stems reddish brown; older vines have light brownish bark that peels off in long strips.
- Creates dense, tangled masses.

Distribution - Common throughout much of the U.S. Found across KY along roadsides, in forests, along streams.

Threat - Dense, strangling growth shades out or topples native plants and depletes soil moisture and nutrients. Changes forest structure and shades excluded native shrubs and herbs.

Control - Hand pulling, grubbing, prescribed burning, late fall foliar spray of 2% glyphosate, repeated control usually necessary.

Similar Plants - Native honeysuckle have fused leaves through which the stem grows along newer growth.

Origin - Eurasia

(Reference: Virginia Native Plant Society, The Nature Conservancy)

Information and resources provided by TN & SE Exotic Pest Plant Councils (tneppc.org and se-eppc.org), Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere Program (samab.org), TVA, The University of Tennessee, US Fish & Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy, Plant Conservation Alliance, and others.

Garlic Mustard

Alliaria petiolata

Description -

- Basal rosette leaves (first year), dark green and kidney-shaped, 2 to 4 inches in diameter with scalloped edges.
- Stemmed plants (second year) 1 to 3 feet tall, leaves 1 to 3 inches wide, smaller toward top, small white 4-petaled flowers.
- Young crushed leaves of both stages have garlic smell.

Distribution - Abundant in the Bluegrass Region. Found in scattered locations across KY, especially in moist areas with productive soils. Invades forests and open fields.

Threat - Forms dense ground cover excluding native herbaceous plants in deep forests. Spreads quickly by flooding and animals, and is hard to control once invasions have occurred.

Control - Pull or cut small infestations before spring seed set. Continuous monitoring necessary for five years. Pull early spring and late fall rosettes or treat with glyphosate or triclopyr (Garlon 3A). Burning helps control plant.

Origin - Northern Europe

(Reference: Wildland Invasive Species Team, The Nature Conservancy)

Information and resources provided by TN & SE Exotic Pest Plant Councils (tneppc.org and se-eppc.org), Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere Program (samab.org), TVA, The University of Tennessee, US Fish & Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy, Plant Conservation Alliance, and others.

Chinese & European Privet

Ligustrum sinense and *Ligustrum vulgare*

Description -

- A shrub attaining up to 30 feet in height. Widely used as hedges.
- Leaves are glossy, stiff, and oval to elliptical, one-half to two inches long, arranged opposite other leaves, forming 2 rows along stem with leaves at nearly right angle to stems.
- Small white four-petaled flowers in loose clumps with heavy musky smell.
- Berries are dark blue to black, and less than one-quarter inch in diameter forming in October.

Distribution - Invasive throughout the southeast and scattered across KY. Thickly invades stream sides, fence rows, road sides, and forest edges.

Threat - Grows in dense stands eliminating native species underneath, especially in moist areas. Spread prolifically by birds. Tolerates shade and lower elevations, invades forests.

Control - Mechanical/hand pulling provided roots pulled too. Glyphosate 3% herbicide as foliar spray. Late fall spraying avoids damage to most native plants. Control requires follow-up treatments for seedlings and sprouts. For larger stems, use basal application of Garlon 4 at a 20% solution.

Origin - China and Eurasia

(Reference: Southeast Exotic Pest Plant Council, Virginia Natural Heritage Program, USDA Forest Service)

Information and resources provided by TN & SE Exotic Pest Plant Councils (tneppc.org and se-eppc.org), Southern Appalachian Man and the Biosphere Program (samab.org), TVA, The University of Tennessee, US Fish & Wildlife Service, The Nature Conservancy, Plant Conservation Alliance, and others.

Chinese and European Privet



Garlic Mustard



Japanese Honeysuckle

