

# 6. Japanese honeysuckle

*Lonicera japonica*



## What is Japanese honeysuckle?

Japanese honeysuckle is a climbing plant that is an invasive weed. It was introduced to New Zealand for gardeners to use as hedges but it spread and grew in places it was not supposed to be.

## Why is Japanese honeysuckle a problem for NZ?

This weed grows quickly, climbing over other plants. It forms thick mats, smothering native plants as it goes and preventing seedlings below it from growing. It can even make tall trees collapse.

Other weeds such as moth plant can use Japanese honeysuckle as support to grow over.



## How do I know it's Japanese honeysuckle?

Japanese honeysuckle has soft, rounded, oval leaves. The shiny, dark green leaves grow in pairs, opposite each other. Long yellowish white flowers (2-5 cm) grow from spring to autumn. They smell nice and sweet. The flowers become black berries.

## How does it spread?

This weed's seeds can be spread by birds and possums. People sometimes dump it with weeds in green spaces. This causes Japanese honeysuckle to spread.

Japanese honeysuckle comes from Eastern Asia, including Japan.



For more detailed information about Japanese honeysuckle and how to control its spread see:

[weedbusters.org.nz](http://weedbusters.org.nz)

