

TATARIAN HONEYSUCKLE

Lonicera tatarica



Family:	Honeysuckle
Native to:	China
Hardiness Zones:	3- 8
Bloom	May
Flower color	pink
Fruit color	red
Fruit	July and August

PERENNIAL SHRUB

Culture:

This species is a shrub with dense tangles of leggy branches and hollow twigs. Copious pink, strongly asymmetrical flowers are borne in pairs in the axils of the leaves. This shrub prefers partial sun, and a fertile loamy soil, but it is adaptable to other situations. The leaves unfold sooner than those of other shrubs during the spring, and they persist until late into the fall. The blooming period occurs from late spring to early summer and lasts about 3 weeks. The flowers have a sweet fragrance that is typical of honeysuckles. Afterwards, the flowers are replaced by pairs of berries. At maturity, these berries are bright red with juicy flesh. Each berry is about ¼" across and contains several small seeds. The woody root system is shallow and spreading. This shrub spreads primarily by reseeding itself.

Did you know?

Tatarian honeysuckle was introduced to the U. S. in 1845 from China, and since has spread to many states, including all of New England. It is regarded as highly invasive throughout much of its North American range. It can create dense thickets which leaf out early and stay leafed out later than most other shrubs, all of which robs sunlight, moisture and nutrients from other plants nearby.

Honeysuckle is pollinated by bees and ruby throated humming birds.

The fruits are not edible for humans.