



## **Bush Honeysuckle Treatment Info**

Vigorous growth and rapid spread of Bush Honeysuckle (*Lonicera maackii* & *Lonicera X bella*) inhibits development of native tree, shrub, and ground layer species. It may displace native species by releasing toxins, shading the forest floor and depleting the soil of moisture and nutrients. Bush Honeysuckle leaves out early and remains green late. Methods for control range from mechanical for small areas to chemical treatment for more widespread areas.

### **Mechanical Control**

Digging or pulling/prying by hand is effective for small populations of seedlings to small/medium sized plants since Honeysuckle has a shallow root system. Even larger plants can be pulled up with relatively moderate force. Repeated clippings to ground level during the growing season eventually will result in mortality, especially in heavily-shaded areas. Cut during flowering and again later in summer when plant resources are mostly above-ground. Clipping should be done at least twice a year for 3 to 5 years, Honeysuckles that are cut once and left to grow often form stands that are even more dense than before. If chemicals are not used, effective management requires a commitment to cut or pull plants for five years or more, or until no new seedlings or re-sprouts appear.

### **Prescribed Fire**

Repeated annual fires will kill new seedlings, shrubs and inhibit new shoot production, particularly if conducted during spring leaf-out when shrubs are actively growing. It may be necessary to re-burn every year or every other year. Regular fires will be effective in suppressing the dominance of these invasive shrubs, if not killing them outright.

**\*Refer to Prescribed Fire Technical Sheet for Ohio burning laws and regulations**

### **Chemical Control**

Both seedlings and larger plants of Bush Honeysuckle can be controlled by foliar application of a 2% glyphosate or triclopyr solution. Application prior to the emergence of native vegetation is the safest time to spray without disturbing desired species.

**\*Refer to Herbicide Technical Sheet for precautions and guidelines when handling chemicals**

### **Mechanical/Chemical Combination**

Established stands of Bush Honeysuckle are often managed by cutting the stems at ground level and painting or spraying the stumps with a 20% glyphosate solution or 12.5% solution of triclopyr mixed with non-toxic bark penetrating oil. Late summer and throughout the dormant season are the best times for treatment

	Method	Timing
<b>Manual/Mechanical/Prescribed Fire</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Uprooting plants</li> <li>• Repeated cutting</li> <li>• Prescribed Fire</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spring, summer, fall</li> <li>• Summer</li> <li>• Spring, fall</li> </ul>
<b>Chemical</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foliar application (glyphosate or triclopyr)</li> <li>• Basal bark treatment (triclopyr with penetrating oil)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Spring</li> <li>• After fall frost but before spring leaf-out</li> </ul>
<b>Combination of Treatments</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cut-stump treatment with herbicide (glyphosate or triclopyr)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Late summer through dormant season</li> </ul>

### **Resources**

Forest Invasive Plants Resource Center - <http://www.na.fs.fed.us/spfo/invasiveplants/> - USDA Forest Service

Missouri Department of Conservation- <http://mdc.mo.gov/your-property/problem-plants-and-animals/invasive-plants/bush-honeysuckles-control>

DOW AgroSciences Online Weed Guide - <http://www.dowagro.com/en-us/vm/weeds-brush/woody-plants/b/bush-honeysuckle>

**\*Revised May 2017**