BUSH HONEYSUCKLE

invasive fact sheet

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Bush honeysuckle invades Vermont's forests and fields. It is **easy to see in May and June** when its yellow, white or pink flowers are in bloom.

Recognize bush honeysuckle

© John Randall/The Nature Conservancy

thin-petaled flowers

red fall berries

hollow stem pith

© Gary Fewless/University of Wisconsin-Green Bay

opposite, oval leaves

© John Randall/The Nature Conservancy

The Problem

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- When songbirds build nests in non-native honeysuckle they suffer a higher predation rate than when their nests are built in native shrubs such as arrowwood (*Viburnum dentatum*). This is because honeysuckle stems are sturdier and closer to the ground — raccoons, skunks and other predators can easily scramble up the stems.
- Forest regeneration is severely impacted by honeysuckle infestations. The shrubs form dense colonies in the understory, outcompeting native shrubs and trees.
- Sunlight can no longer reach the forest floor, reducing the diversity and abundance of native wildflower and fern populations.

BUSH HONEYSUCKLE

Remove

Mechanical removal:

Hand pull: Any time of year when the ground is soft, especially after a rain, hand pull small plants by the base of the stem. Be sure to pull up the entire root system. Hang from a branch to prevent re-rooting. For larger plants, use a Weed Wrench™. Continue to monitor the area every year for new seedlings.

Cut stump: Cut plants back in the fall or winter. Wrap a few layers of burlap or thick plastic over the stump and tie tightly with twine or rope. Check covered stumps periodically and cut back any new growth.

Chemical removal:

Cut stump: Cut the plant 4 inches above the ground. Use a drip bottle to apply a 18-21% glyphosate solution to the stump within one hour of cutting. This is best done in late summer through winter when plants are transporting resources to their root systems.

Low volume foliar spray: This method is used for dense populations and best left to a contractor. In the fall, when native plants are losing their leaves, spray a 2% glyphosate or triclopyr solution on the entire leaf surface of the plant. In order to avoid drift to native plants, spray only on calm days.

Safe Chemical Application

- √ ***Develop an Integrated Plant Management approach.*** Use chemical control as only ONE piece of your prevention and management strategy.
- √ ***The label found on the herbicide container is the law.*** It indicates the concentrations to use, what protective clothing to wear, how to apply the product, and what environmental and human health hazards are associated with the chemical.
- √ ***Use aquatic formulations within 10 feet of water.*** You need a permit to apply herbicides in wetlands. You cannot apply herbicides within 100 feet of a wellhead. Contact VT DEC at 802-241-3761 for more information.
- √ ***You need to be certified to apply herbicides on land that you do not own.***
- √ ***Hire a contractor to manage large infestations.*** A good contractor will have the knowledge to help create an effective management plan. For a list of certified contractors, contact the VT Department of Agriculture at 802-828-3482.

Replant

Non-invasive Alternatives

© Mrs. W.D. Barnsford/Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

ninebark
Physocarpus opulifolius

© Stefan Bloodworth/Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

winterberry
Ilex verticillata

black chokeberry
Aronia melanocarpa

© David G. Smith/delawarewildflower.org

Virginia rose
Rosa virginiana

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Wise On Weeds!

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