

## TARTARIAN HONEYSUCKLE (*Lonicera tartarica* L.)

**TARTARIAN HONEYSUCKLE** is an introduced shrub growing to about 9 feet tall. These Eurasian plants were introduced into USA about 200 years ago, whereupon they spread into the Midwest, and now are widespread in Door County. Tartarian honeysuckle is prevalent around Kangaroo Lake. It has invaded roadsides of major and secondary roads, and driveways. It is now invading woodland areas.

These illustrations (Figures 1 and 2) show the opposite leaf character and location of flowers and fruits along the stem of Tartarian Honeysuckle.



Figure 1. Opposite leaf character and flower position along stem of the Honeysuckle.



Figure 2. Location and color of Honeysuckle fruits which appear as two joined berries.

Tartarian Honeysuckle develops several stems with multiple branches that tend to form an arched array, sometimes bending toward the ground. The leaves are elliptical in shape, and opposite each other on the stems. Leaves are 1 1/2- to 2-inches long with smooth edges. The shrub produces an abundance of reddish, pink or white flowers that occur in pairs. You'll recognize the shrub from these abundant paired flowers and subsequent paired pink or red berries about 3/8-inch in size. This colorful invasive is very aggressive. The plant leafs out early in spring, and then shades out native shrubs and ground plants that are food sources for wildlife.

The several native honeysuckle plants are smaller shrubs and vines, and tend not to grow in the areas described above for Tartarian Honeysuckle.

**Control:** You want to remove or kill the root. Any root portions remaining in the ground can renew growth of the plant. The stem is hard and tough.

Wearing apparel: Wear goggles for eye protection against herbicide sprays; leather gloves; wear plastic gloves when using herbicides; sturdy footwear; long-sleeved garments; long pants.

Tools and supplies: Long-handled pointed shovel or spade; lopper; root-puller; a typical 3-inch paintbrush and convenient can to hold concentrated herbicide; hand branch-clipper; a handy carrying container for small work items. A root-puller is available for loan.

Herbicide: The recommended herbicide contains both glyphosate (1%) and triclopyr (0.1%) spray that is applied to poison ivy and tough brush. It is already prepared in the manufacturer's pump sprayer model (1 gallon+ container). It is locally available in Sturgeon Bay. Check several suppliers including Walmart.

Also consider purchasing a container of Round-Up (Poison Ivy) Concentrate at the same store. It contains glyphosate 18% and triclopyr 2%. It can be painted on the cut stem surface of the plant.

Procedures: Use one or more of these procedures:

(1) If you have a root-puller available use it to pull out entire root. Attach the root-puller to the stem-root area of the plant to pull (leverage) out the entire root. It works best when the soil is moist so that the entire root is pulled out.

(2) Lop off the plant stem horizontally just above ground level of the root. Then spray the cut surfaces with the manufacturer's sprayer containing glyphosate and triclopyr herbicide. To prevent the herbicide from drifting when you spray, use a piece of cardboard about 24 x 24 inches square to make a spray shield. Cut a hole in the cardboard near the top (middle area) of one side to make a handgrip. Then hold this

shield behind the plant root area to be sprayed so as to avoid spraying native plants. You want native plants to continue growing so as to replace the killed invasive plants.

(3) Instead of spraying the cut surfaces, you can paint the freshly cut surfaces with the concentrated herbicide (a more concentrated application) for poison ivy. Use the paintbrush with herbicide in a convenient can. Avoid getting herbicide on adjacent native plants. You will want native plants to grow and replace the killed invasive plants.

Disposal: Decide how you will dispose of uprooted and cut plant material. You can pile it near where you uprooted or cut stem material, but large stems of honeysuckle decompose very slowly. Also, if there are fruits (and seeds) on the stems, avoid allowing them to drop onto the ground. Perhaps carry these stems out of your woods to avoid allowing the seeds to drop onto the ground. You may find it convenient to remove some or all of the fruiting honeysuckle branches from your woods and work area.

The next years: Fruits and seeds are spread widely by birds and animals. Check the areas where you eradicated this plant for the next several years. Young plants are easily removed by pulling them out. Missed plants can be removed as you did previously.