

# 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.

## The Problem

- ◆ 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.



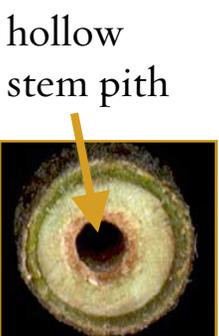
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### bush honeysuckle



thin-petaled flowers



hollow stem pith



red fall berries

opposite, oval leaves

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## 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.



## Non-invasive Alternatives



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ninebark  
*Physocarpus opulifolius*



© Stefan Bloodworth/Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center

winterberry  
*Ilex verticillata*

black  
chokeberry

*Aronia  
melanocarpa*



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Virginia  
rose

*Rosa  
virginiana*



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