



Lonicera japonica

Common Name(s):

Japanese honeysuckle

Current Threat Status (2009):

Exotic

Habitat:

Terrestrial. A plant of coastal and lowland communities which grows in moderately fertile sites. The plant grows more vigorously in deeper valley soils (Department of Conservation 1996). Grows best on calcareous soils and moist forest soils; it rarely establishes on excessively drained and drought-prone sandy or stony soils (Williams and Timmins, 1997). Occurs in scrub, forest margins, shrublands, disturbed or secondary forest, coastal areas, modified lowland forest, wetland margins, inshore islands, roadsides, farm hedges, wasteland, rough pasture, open forest, forest, wetlands, streambanks and around margins and in clearings (Webb et. al. 1988).

Features:

Vigorous climber, evergreen or semi-evergreen in cold districts. Stems mostly purplish and hirsute when young. Leaves dimorphic - those produced in colder weather in early spring sinuate to deeply lobed; summer leaves and those on reproductive shoots entire. Petiole to 1.3cm long, densely hirsute. Lamina of entire leaves 2.5~12 x 1.5 ~ 6cm, ovate-oblong, ovate or ovate-elliptic, usu. deep shining green or sometimes yellowish-green above, lighter green below, sometimes mottled yellow, densely hairy to glabrous on veins beneath; midrib above glabrous or hairy; base rounded, truncate or subcordate; apex obtuse to acute; leaves subtending; flowers similar but smaller, all free. Flowers in axillary pairs, fragrant; peduncles 5~25mm long, densely hirsute. Bracteoles generally oblong-obovate, much < ovaries. Calyx lobes very small, roughly narrow-triangular, fringed with long hairs. Corolla 2~4.5cm long, usu. white, becoming yellow after anthesis, often flushed pink on reverse, glandular-hairy outside; tube 1~3cm long, cylindric; limb 2-lipped; single linear lobe of lower lip recurving; upper lip 4-toothed. Stamens and style < = corolla limb. Ovaries separate. Berry 5~7mm diam., broad-ovate to suborbicular, glossy black. Seed around 2mm diam. (- Webb et. al., 1988)

Flowering:

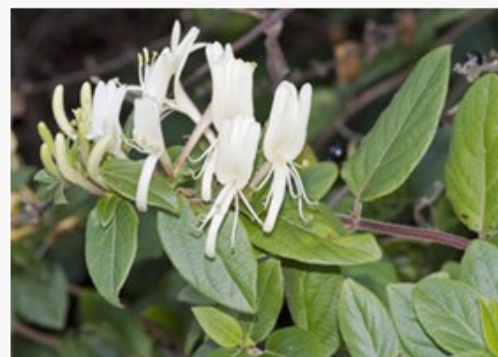
September, October, November, December, January, February, March, April, May

For more information, visit:

http://nzpcn.org.nz/flora_details.asp?ID=3456



Caption: *Lonicera japonica*
Photographer: John Smith-Dodsworth



Caption: Haywards Hill, Upper Hutt. Apr 2006.
Photographer: Jeremy Rolfe